

GROWING PAINS FOR PUBLIC DEFENDERS OFFICE

Local, A3



Sepic prepares to hand off baton

Berrien prosecutor's term is ending, though one final case remains

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — When Michael Sepic leaves his office for the last time on Thursday, he'll leave behind a place that has been his home away from home for 32 years.

"It's been a great career. I've loved every minute of it," the Berrien County prosecutor said. "I've loved the lead up to it, and I've loved being the elected prosecutor. You're making decisions every day that are important."

Sepic said that while he's in good health and could continue

working, turning 70 during the final month of his current four-year term, the timing seemed right for retirement.

"One thing I've said that I truly believe is that while I could probably go on for a while longer, there are just really good people coming up through the ranks, and I don't want to be in their way. I just think the timing is right for me to bow out," Sepic said.

Prosecutor-elect Steve Pierangeli will move into the corner office next week and, "I am absolutely leaving the office in good hands," Sepic added.

Moving up through the ranks

After law school, Sepic practiced general law in Eaton Rapids for six years.

"I had a private practice that zoomed up really fast in the first year or two. But then it leveled off, and I realized I was going to have to find a job instead of relying on this. It just wasn't going to take off," he said.

He found a job as an assistant prosecutor in Calhoun County. "Then I found out that I really liked prosecution work."

See SEPIC, page A2



Don Campbell / HP staff

Berrien County Prosecutor Michael Sepic is retiring after more than 30 years working in the office at the Berrien County Courthouse — the last 7½ as prosecutor.

HANG ON TIGHT



Don Campbell / HP staff

Siblings Emmitt and Evelyn Dwyer, of St. Joseph, enjoy an afternoon of sledding at Kiwanis Park in St. Joseph earlier this week.

Patience is the key

Local health officials say vaccine is in the works; promise frequent updates and info

By ALEXANDRA NEWMAN
HP Staff Writer

BENTON TOWNSHIP — As more and more folks get their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, local health officials are urging patience.

"For those individuals who are eager and ready and know that they want it, basically, stay tuned. We're providing information as quickly as we possibly can," Gillian Conrad, spokesperson for the Berrien County Health Department (BCHD), said Tuesday. Frontline staff at the BCHD, as well as Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel, began receiving their first dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine this week.

The state reported Tuesday that about 71,000 Michigan residents have now received the vaccine.

The BCHD is currently focusing on providing vaccines to individuals in priority groups 1 and 2 of Phase 1A, which includes EMS personnel, medical first responders, and some long-term care facility workers and residents.

Concurrently, local hospital systems are vaccinating their health care workers, and pharmacies are vaccinating residents and staff of most long-term care facilities.

The BCHD is estimating finishing up these priority groups in the next seven to 10 days. Priority group 3, which includes other health care workers, like dentists, home health care aides and pharmacy staff, would begin after that and this phase is expected to last through mid-late January.

Phase 1B, which includes persons 75 years of age or older and frontline essential workers in critical infrastructure, would begin after that.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer encouraged residents Tuesday to make a plan to get the vaccine.

See VACCINE, page A6

Gov. Whitmer signs \$106M COVID relief plan

By ANNA LIZ NICHOLS
Associated Press/Report for America

LANSING — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed into law a \$106 million plan Tuesday that will provide relief to businesses and fund efforts to fight the economic impact of the coronavirus.

Though the plan was a collaborative effort between the governor and the legislature, Whitmer told reporters that the legislature strayed from the original agreement and that the \$465 million plan the legislature sent to her desk had been cut.

Unemployment benefits will be extended from 20 weeks to 26 weeks through the end of March by signing a separate bill. But Whitmer used a line-item veto to get rid of a \$220 million allocation that would have helped businesses fund unemployment benefits.

"This will not impact individual workers," she said. "General

fund dollars have got to be used to fund essential services like vaccines and PPE, not to give tax breaks to big businesses, right now."

But Republican legislative leaders argued that by vetoing the \$220 million, Whitmer made the benefits extension void. Incoming GOP Speaker of the House Jason Wentworth issued a statement saying "the madness has to stop."

"The governor took a bipartisan bill that easily passed with widespread support and cut critical funding to support workers with extended unemployment assistance," Wentworth said. "She either doesn't understand the legislation in front of her or her actions today are just as cruel and tone deaf as so many others have been during this pandemic."

Tiffany Brown, a spokeswoman for the Democratic governor reiterated the governor's comments from the news conference in a

statement Tuesday and said the line-item veto has no effect on current unemployed workers or their benefit weeks.

Under the plan, the Michigan Strategic Fund will receive \$55 million to distribute survival grants of up to \$20,000 to small businesses that were forced to close and grants of up to \$15,000 if the businesses partially closed.

The relief plan also allocates \$3.5 million for grants of up to \$40,000 to help entertainment venues and \$45 million in payments to workers who were laid off during the pandemic.

Republican Senate Majority leader Mike Shirkey took to Twitter Monday morning to air his grievances about Whitmer's timeliness with the plan. She received the bill Dec. 22.

"Every day that goes by, 20 restaurants close their doors for good and more Michiganders — out of work due to her orders — suffer," Shirkey wrote. "This bill

should have been signed the moment she received it."

Brown said in an emailed statement Monday that Whitmer proposed the stimulus plan to the legislature in November and Republicans stalled the process.

"The Republican legislative leaders did not fully negotiate this bill with our administration and, because of that, our team is going through a careful legal and policy review," Brown said. "This is a standard procedure for bills that haven't been negotiated."

Whitmer said Tuesday that the legislature needs to work with her to create more permanent plans to help Michigan as its health systems and economy struggles during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Michiganders should not be used as any sort of a bargaining chip or tied to other priorities that the legislature might have outside of protecting public health in our economy," Whitmer said.

Index

Classifieds	B5	Food & Health	B6	Opinion	A4	Nation	A2
Comics	B4	Local	A3	Puzzles	B3	Television	B3
Features	B3	Obituaries	A5	Sports	B1	Weather	A6

Tomorrow's Weather

High
34



Low
27



Trump lashes out at GOP after override vote on defense bill

By **MATTHEW DALY**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump lashed out at congressional Republicans on Tuesday after the House easily voted to override his veto of a defense policy bill.

A total of 109 Republicans, including Wyoming Rep. Liz Cheney, a member of GOP leadership, joined with Democrats on Monday to approve the override, which would be the first of Trump’s presidency. The Senate is expected to consider the measure later this week.

Trump slammed GOP lawmakers on Twitter, charging that “Weak and tired Republican ‘leadership’ will allow the bad Defense Bill to pass.”

Trump called the override vote a “disgraceful act of cowardice and total submission by weak people to Big Tech. Negotiate a better Bill, or get better leaders, NOW! Senate should not approve NDAA until fixed!!!”

The 322-87 vote in the House sends the override effort to the Senate, where the exact timing of a vote is uncertain.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., wants a vote as soon as Wednesday, but Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders objected to moving ahead until McConnell allows a vote on a Trump-backed plan to increase COVID-19 relief payments to \$2,000.

“Let me be clear: If Sen. McConnell doesn’t agree

to an up or down vote to provide the working people of our country a \$2,000 direct payment, Congress will not be going home for New Year’s Eve,” said Sanders, an independent who caucuses with Democrats. “Let’s do our job.”

McConnell said Tuesday that approval of the \$740 billion National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, is crucial to the nation’s defense and to “deter great-power rivals like China and Russia.”

The bill “will cement our advantage on the seas, on land, in the air, in cyberspace and in space,” McConnell said. The bill also provides a 3 percent pay raise for U.S. troops, improvements for military housing, child care and more, McConnell said.

“For the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces, failure is not an option. So when it is our turn in Congress to have their backs, failure is not an option here either,” he said.

Trump rejected the defense measure last week, saying it failed to limit social media companies he claims were biased against him during his failed reelection campaign. Trump also opposes language that allows for the renaming of military bases that honor Confederate leaders.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said after the House vote that lawmakers have done their part to ensure the NDAA becomes law “despite the president’s dangerous sabotage efforts.”

Trump’s \$2,000 checks stall in Senate as GOP blocks vote

By **LISA MASCARO**
and **JILL COLVIN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump’s push for bigger \$2,000 COVID-19 relief checks stalled out Tuesday in the Senate as Republicans blocked a swift vote proposed by Democrats and split within their own ranks over whether to boost spending or defy the White House.

The roadblock mounted by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell may not be sustainable as pressure mounts. Trump wants the Republican-led chamber to follow the House and increase the checks from \$600 for millions of Americans. A growing number of Republicans, including two senators in runoff elections on Jan. 5 in Georgia, have said they will support the larger amount. But most GOP senators oppose more spending, even if they are also wary of bucking Trump.

Senators will be back at it Wednesday as McConnell is devising a way out of the political bind, but the outcome

is highly uncertain.

“There’s one question left today: Do Senate Republicans join with the rest of America in supporting \$2,000 checks?” Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said as he made a motion to vote.

Meanwhile, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said some of the \$600 payments might be sent by direct deposit to Americans’ bank accounts as early as Tuesday night. Mnuchin tweeted that paper checks will begin to go out Wednesday.

The showdown over the \$2,000 checks has thrown Congress into a chaotic year-end session just days before new lawmakers are set to be sworn into office for the new year. It’s preventing action on another priority – overturning Trump’s veto on a sweeping defense bill that has been approved every year for 60 years.

Saying little, McConnell signaled an alternative approach to Trump’s checks that may not divide his party so badly, but may result in no action at all.

The GOP leader filed new

legislation late Tuesday linking the president’s demand for bigger checks with two other Trump priorities – repealing protections for tech companies like Facebook or Twitter that the president complained are unfair to conservatives as well the establishment of a bipartisan commission to review the 2020 presidential election he lost to President-elect Joe Biden.

“The Senate will begin a process,” the GOP leader said. He said little more, only that he would bring the president’s demand for the \$2,000 checks and other remaining issues “into focus.”

The president’s last-minute push for bigger checks leaves Republicans deeply split between those who align with Trump’s populist instincts and those who adhere to what had been more traditional conservative views against government spending. Congress had settled on smaller \$600 payments in a compromise over the big, year-end relief bill Trump reluctantly signed into law.

Liberal senators led by Bernie Sanders of Vermont

who support the relief aid are blocking action on the defense bill until a vote can be taken on Trump’s demand for \$2,000 for most Americans.

“The working class of this country today faces more economic desperation than at any time since the Great Depression of the 1930s,” Sanders said as he also tried to force a vote on the relief checks. “Working families need help now.” But McConnell objected a second time.

The GOP blockade is causing turmoil for some as the virus crisis worsens nationwide and Trump amplifies his unexpected demands.

The two GOP senators from Georgia, David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler, announced Tuesday they support Trump’s plan for bigger checks as they face Democrats Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock in runoff elections that will determine which party controls the Senate.

“I’m delighted to support the president,” said Perdue on Fox News. Loeffler said in an interview on Fox that she, too, backs the boosted relief checks.

SEPIC

From page A1

After three years, he saw a posting for an assistant prosecutor in Berrien County, applied for the job and was hired in 1978 by then-Prosecutor Paul Maloney.

Over the years, he worked his way up the ranks to become chief trial attorney, then chief assistant prosecutor. In 2013, when former prosecutor Arthur Cotter became a judge, Sepic was appointed by the court’s four circuit judges to serve as prosecutor. In 2014 he was elected to finish the remaining two years of Cotter’s term, then was elected to a full four-year term in 2016.

Sepic listed being instrumental in opening the county’s Children’s Assessment Center (now called the Children’s Advocacy Center), and the addition of a K9 advocate to the prosecutor’s office as two accomplishments he is proud of.

A former prosecutor, the late Jim Cherry, during his tenure had asked Sepic to explore the possibility of a Children’s Assessment Center.

The CAC opened in Berrien County some 20 years ago.

“That was an important change in the way cases are investigated, from a police patrolman taking a complaint to a process we have now where children who are potential victims can be interviewed by a trained expert,” Sepic said. The center also offers counseling services for child victims and their families.

Another major accomplishment was the addition of Mr. Weeber, a K9 advocate that has helped children testifying in court. The dog is owned by Chief Trial Attorney Jeff Taylor and comes to work at the courthouse every day.

“I had gone to a Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan conference in early 2014 and a person spoke about K9 advocates,” Sepic said. “This person told a story about how their dog was in court one day waiting for a sentencing in a criminal sexual conduct case. But there was another sentencing first that involved a traffic death. There was a father in the gallery whose son had died in the crash. And during the course of the unrelated sentencing, the dog goes over and puts his head on this guy’s leg. The dog knew he was in distress.”

Sepic said at first he was skeptical that the Berrien County office had enough kids coming into the office to warrant having a K9 advocate.

“So I took about an eight week period to note when we had kids coming to testify for hearings or trials,



John Madill / HP file photo

Berrien County Prosecutor Michael Sepic addresses the court before the sentence is handed down in the Edward Pinkney case on Dec. 15, 2014.

or to meet the prosecutors, and it was a couple a week. So I thought, let’s put our name in for a dog. We were on a list for a while, then it came through,” Sepic said. “He’s just great. It’s great to see the effect he has on kids who have to wait, sometimes for hours, to go into court or while they’re in court.”

New challenges

Also during Sepic’s tenure, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that automatic life without parole sentences for juveniles for first-degree murder are unconstitutional, and the Michigan State Supreme Court ordered the ruling retroactive.

Berrien County had 12 juvenile-lifers who were serving life without parole, and they were to have hearings regarding re-sentencing. Prosecutors could argue for the sentence to remain life without parole, and Sepic and assistant prosecutors have done so in many of Berrien’s cases. Some are still being adjudicated.

“I made the decision early on to assign them to individual prosecutors because in most of these, the original prosecutor isn’t around anymore, and I wanted as many of our lawyers as possible to get a handle on what these issues are in these cases,” Sepic said.

One case he kept for himself to argue is that of Efran Paredes Jr., a case Sepic originally prosecuted more than 20 years ago when he was a relatively new assistant prosecutor. He said it has been his most memorable case as a prosecutor.

Paredes was 15 when in

1989 he and accomplices robbed the Roger’s Vineland supermarket in St. Joseph Township. According to testimony, Paredes, a part-time bagger at the store, lured night manager Richard Tezlaff into a back room after closing time, shot him four times, then took cash and checks.

Oral arguments in the case regarding re-sentencing of Paredes are set for Jan. 11, with a decision to be rendered by March 8. Sepic has been sworn in as an assistant prosecutor to finish the case.

Sepic said workload and staffing has at times presented a challenge.

“One element that caused a change was all the video from squad cars, body cameras, cell phones, stores. It was burying the assistant prosecutors in reviewing this stuff, so I went to the county board and they gave me an audio/video person, which has been a significant help taking the load off the APAs doing that work,” he said.

The addition of a Public Defenders Office in 2017 presented a new challenge.

“This changed in many respects the way a case moves through the system,” he said. “They don’t plead cases as early, on average. They plead more cases later, which means the APAs have more preliminary hearings to do or cases to get ready for trial. Even though we’re not necessarily doing more trials, it impacts the time on the APAs, and over the last three or four years, I’ve added three assistant prosecutors.”

Large caseload

Sepic said that in a county of 155,000 people, it amazes him the number and magnitude of felony cases there are.

“It’s just amazing what people do to each other, and what that translates to for a prosecutor is the numbers of victims that you’re helping. You truly see the anguish and pain not just with homicides and kids sex cases, but people who get their houses broken into,” Sepic said.

“We’re all built a little differently and for some people it really affects whether they can go back to that house. Sometimes folks really need the justice to help heal. They are victims and we try to help,” he added.

Sepic said the biggest challenge for a prosecutor is to make good decisions, not easy decisions.

“Good decisions take into consideration the victim, police officer that worked the case, and the public that might be affected by a decision. So one of my training speeches to new assistants is, if you’re going to make a plea decision, make sure you can defend that decision to the victim, the police officer, to the public, to the press and to your boss,” he said. “If it’s ‘I just don’t want to try that case,’ or ‘It’s going to be a difficult case to win,’ That’s not a good enough reason to make a plea deal.”

He said his office does not dwell on an attorney’s win/loss record.

“If someone claims they have a 98 percent or higher win rate, then they’re not trying the right cases, because for the most part, it’s the difficult cases that end up not pleading,” Sepic said. “So if you’re pleading away cases that are difficult, simply because they take time to prepare and present, you might be avoiding trying cases that should be tried, and might be won.”

Sepic tells his assistants there is no shame in taking a case they believe in to trial, presenting all the evidence they need to present and having a jury come back with an acquittal.

“If a jury says not guilty, it’s not guilty and you have to live with that,” he said. “Our culture here is, don’t make a decision not to try a case, if you believe in it, just because it may be difficult to win. We’re not concerned with win/loss records.”

Contact: jswidwa@TheHP.com, 932-0359, Twitter @HPSwidwa

LOTTERIES

Tuesday drawings

Michigan

Poker Lotto

KS-7C-7D-8H-2S

Midday Daily 3

6-2-8

Midday Daily 4

0-2-8-7

Daily 3

5-8-6

Daily 4

0-6-9-9

Fantasy 5

01-09-21-27-35

Keno

04-05-07-09-15-19-20-

25-26-28-29-33-38-

40-42-48-54-57-70-71-

74-80

Mega Millions jackpot

\$376 million

Powerball jackpot

\$363 million

Monday drawings

Indiana

Cash 5

28-31-33-37-44

Estimated jackpot

\$75,000

Cash4Life

37-44-55-59-60, Cash

Ball: 3

Quick Draw Midday

02-05-06-12-13-14-

15-16-31-35-39-43-46-

53-54-66-72-75-76-78,

BE: 14

Daily Three-Midday

8-8-0, SB: 6

Daily Three-Evening

4-9-3, SB: 7

Daily Four-Midday

1-1-8-1, SB: 6

Daily Four-Evening

4-2-6-9, SB: 7

Quick Draw Evening

04-11-15-16-18-19-

23-24-32-36-37-41-42-

48-49-57-59-69-78-79,

BE: 16

Illinois

Lotto

02-06-13-27-28-35,

Extra Shot: 3

LuckyDay Lotto Midday

03-24-27-39-40

Estimated jackpot

\$250,000

Pick Three-Midday

9-8-8, Fireball: 9

Pick Three-Evening

9-5-7, Fireball: 8

Pick Four-Midday

2-3-9-8, Fireball: 3

Pick Four-Evening

7-3-7-7, Fireball: 7

Lucky Day Lotto

04-05-06-31-32

— The Associated Press

Contact us

To contact the Newsroom, send an email to one of the addresses listed below, call one of the direct lines listed below, or call our main office at 429-2400 and ask for one of the extensions listed below.

News tip

Ext. 293

localnews@TheHP.com

Features

Ext. 225

focus@TheHP.com

Letters to the Editor

Ext. 295

letters@TheHP.com

Sports

Ext. 294, or 429-1294

sports@TheHP.com

Obituaries

Ext. 295, or 429-2295

obits@TheHP.com

Photo

Ext. 204

photos@TheHP.com

To order reprints of staff photos or high-quality reproductions of full pages, visit www.TheHP.com and click on the Photo Gallery and Reprints link.

The Herald-Palladium

P.O. Box 128 • 3450 Hollywood Road • St. Joseph, MI 49085
Volume 152, Number 267

For delivery and subscription information, call 269-429-1396 or email delivery@TheHP.com

9 a.m.-2 p.m. Mondays-Fridays.

If your paper is missed, please call 269-429-1396.

To place a classified ad, call 269-429-4484.

To reach any other department, call our main number at 269-429-2400.

Main number hours are 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Mondays-Fridays.

Cash payments and checks are accepted in our drop box outside the lobby. The Circulation and Classified departments can accept credit card payments via telephone during their normal hours.

Our building is currently closed to the public because of the coronavirus.

MAIN FAX 429-7661
NEWSROOM FAX 429-4398
CLASSIFIED ADV. FAX 429-8344

Home delivery rates:
Mail delivery \$30.25/4 wks
EZ-Pay \$26.40/month

All subscriptions are payable in advance. Other payment options available by calling Subscriber Services at 269-429-2400.

The Herald-Palladium is printed for your convenience with low-ruboff soy ink and with newsprint containing recycled paper.

David Holgate Publisher
Dave Brown Managing Editor
Sara Horton Advertising Director
Julie Simpeman Circulation Director
Jenn Mann Business Manager

The Herald-Palladium is published daily, Mondays through Saturdays, except for USPS holidays, at 3450 Hollywood Road, St. Joseph, MI and is a consolidation of The Herald-Press and The News-Palladium. Periodicals Mail postage paid at St. Joseph, MI (USPS 387-440). Postmaster: Send change of address to P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085. Member of The Associated Press.



Auto Parts Since 1921



269-925-0035

August Pohl 2225 S. M-139
AUTO PARTS Benton Harbor

Specializing in used engines

hp LOCAL



We're here to help Michigan get back to work.

Which means we are bringing you virtual services!
Visit miworks.org/online-resources for more info.

To schedule an appointment:

(800) 285-9675 | miworks.org



November home sales extend 4-month market boom

Southwest Michigan housing inventory hits all-time low

By **TONY WITTKOWSKI**
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — The Southwest Michigan housing market continued its historic pace in November.

The number of houses sold, selling prices and total dollar volume surpassed November 2019 numbers and set new records for November, dating back to 2006 — a period traditionally thought of as the housing market's peak year.

Alan Jeffries, association executive of the Southwestern Michigan Association of Realtors, said this isn't a surprise, as the four months before this November also set record numbers in monthly comparisons to prior years.

"The downside to this market boom is the inventory of houses for sale dropped to an all-time low at the end of November, to 930 houses," Jeffries said. "This was a 36 percent drop from November 2019. At this level of inventory, there was just 3.7-month supply for potential homebuyers. For comparison, in November 2010, there were 3,160 houses for sale."

The number of houses sold in November, at 359, represented the first time since November the number dropped below 455 in a month.

Compared to November 2019, sales were up 30 percent. Year-to-date, the number of houses sold grew to 3,557, from 3,353 in November 2019 — for a 6 percent increase.

The average selling price at \$344,901 this November is a 48 percent increase

compared to the \$232,817 average selling price last November.

The median selling price jumped to \$220,000 from \$174,500 in November 2019, for a 26 percent increase. Year-to-date, the median selling price rose 20 percent.

The 30 percent increase in sales at 48 percent higher selling prices pushed the total dollar volume up 92 percent in November for Southwest Michigan, compared to November 2019 — \$123.8 million versus \$64.4 million in total dollar volume.

The year-to-date total dollar volume increased 34 percent.

Locally, the mortgage rate was at 2.96, down slightly from 3.02 in October. Last year in November, the rate was 3.80. Nationally, the Freddie Mac mortgage rate in November was 2.72, down from 2.81 in October

for a 30-year conventional mortgage.

Across the country

According to the National Association of Realtors, existing-home sales fell in November — snapping a five-month streak of month-over-month gains.

All major regions either took a step back or held steady in terms of their respective month-over-month status. However, each of the four areas experienced significant year-over-year growth.

Total existing-home sales decreased 2.5 percent from October to a seasonally-adjusted annual rate of 6.69 million in November. However, sales in total rose year-over-year, up 25.8 percent from a year ago.

"Home sales in November took a marginal step back, but sales for all of 2020 are already on pace to surpass last year's levels,"

said NAR's chief economist Lawrence Yun. "Given the COVID-19 pandemic, it's amazing that the housing sector is outperforming expectations."

Yun said job recoveries have stalled in the past few months, and fast-rising coronavirus cases along with stricter lockdowns have weakened consumer confidence.

"Circumstances are far from being back to the pre-pandemic normal," he said. "However, the latest stimulus package and with the vaccine distribution underway, and a very strong demand for homeownership still prevalent, robust growth is forthcoming for 2021."

The median existing-home price for all housing types in November was \$310,800, up 14.6 percent from November 2019. November's national price increase marks 105 straight months of year-over-

year gains.

Nationally, the total housing inventory at the end of November totaled 1.28 million units, down 9.9 percent from October and down 22 percent from one year ago.

Unsold inventory sits at an all-time low 2.3-month supply at the current sales pace, down from the 3.7-month figure recorded in November 2019.

"The positive momentum that home sellers are seeing will carry on well into the new year," Yun said, citing low mortgage rates and remote-work realities. "Housing affordability, which had greatly benefitted from falling mortgage rates, is now being challenged due to record-high home prices. That could place strain on some potential consumers, particularly first-time buyers."

Contact: twittkowski@TheHP.com, 932-0358, Twitter: @TonyWittkowski



Photos by Don Campbell / HP staff

Chief Assistant Public Defender Jolene Weiner-Vatter works in her new office located in the Renaissance Business Center in St. Joseph on Tuesday afternoon. The Berrien County Public Defenders Office is hoping to move its entire staff to the expanded location in the future.

Growing pains

Berrien Public Defenders Office seeks larger quarters

By **JULIE SWIDWA**
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — The Berrien County Public Defenders Office opened in a small building in January 2017 with eight lawyers, two legal assistants, one part-time investigator and an office manager.

The number of attorneys has since doubled, and the staff now includes 17 lawyers, three investigators, a social worker and three office support people.

As the county-owned building on Church Street in St. Joseph was bursting at the seams, half of the staff was moved from there a year ago to rental space in the Renaissance Business Center in the Edgewater area of St. Joseph.

A proposal to move the entire staff there and vacate the Church Street space is expected to go before the Berrien County Board of Commissioners for a vote next month.

Chief Public Defender Paul Jancha Jr. developed the proposal with input from Berrien County Administrator Brian Dissette.

The office is currently renting half of Suite 120 at 511 Renaissance Drive, and the other half of the Suite owned by Fiskars, Inc., is vacant. Jancha said if the Public Defenders Office were to rent the whole suite, there would be plenty of space for every attorney to have his or her own office, a common area where meetings and trainings could take place, and a work environment more likely to attract and retain staff.

"It's been a tough year for everybody. We don't have the ability to collaborate and informally chat about cases and strategies," Jancha said. "In that larger space, the younger attorneys would have the benefit of being mentored by our senior trial attorneys, and that benefits our clients."

The Public Defenders Office is grant-funded through the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission and operates on an Oct. 1 through Sept. 30 fiscal year, so the budget is already set for 2021. Jancha said the landlord has offered a deal that would allow the move to the larger space to fit the current budget. The target date for the proposed move is to take occupancy Feb. 1, 2021.

For the current fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2021, the budget is \$3.095 million. Of that amount, the county is responsible for a \$574,534 match and the remaining \$2.5 million is provided by the grant.

The budget allocates \$19,870 per year back to Berrien County for use of the county-owned building on Church Street. Jancha said that equates to \$13,247 for the eight-month period Feb. 1, 2021 through Sept. 30, 2021. He said annual maintenance of the Church Street building is \$10,750, or \$7,167 for that same period.

The estimated cost for the proposed move to the new office, including lease payments and moving costs, would be \$53,713.75. But the more than \$20,400 savings resulting from vacating the Church Street building brings the total down closer to \$33,200.

Jancha said the MIDC has continued to fund the growing needs since Berrien's



Chief Public Defender Paul Jancha Jr. tours the new offices of the Berrien County Public Defender's department on Tuesday afternoon at the Renaissance Business Center in St. Joseph.

Public Defenders Office opened in 2017, and he is confident that adequate funding will continue. Further, he said, now in the third year of public defender offices opening throughout the state with mandated standards, "We were advised that there will be increased scrutiny."

And Jancha wants his office to continue to meet or exceed standards.

"A huge priority for me is to have our newer attorneys work with the senior attorneys on serious cases to gain experience, but also foster an atmosphere of collaboration on day to day questions," he said. "Right now our misdemeanor attorneys are primarily here at 100 Church St. with me, and most of our felony division is at (the other location). We are losing many opportunities for informal collaboration and formal collaboration by being separated."

Criminal defense representation is a profession that requires a great deal of on-the-job training and mentoring, Jancha said.

"It is a magnificent benefit to a Public Defender Office such as ours that we have so many opportunities to teach our newer attorneys. This collaboration and mentoring is a wonderful benefit to our clients, who in turn are repre-

sented by attorneys benefiting from experience and insight well beyond their years of licensure," he said.

Jancha said the benefits of having a more collaborative, professional atmosphere would include staff retention and recruiting.

"In contrast with having cubicle offices, the new space would allow for individual offices for all staff attorneys. This would position Berrien County very competitively with that of other counties' public defender offices. We have lost five staff attorneys to other counties in the last two years.

"We need to do everything we can to keep people and recruit the best," Jancha said.

He said client perception is also a factor.

"The majority of our staff attorneys at the Church Street office are unable to meet with their clients privately without difficulty in scheduling use of the single conference room. The new space would allow clients to meet privately with their attorneys within the attorneys' own individual office," he said. "The ability to consult comfortably in private is a cornerstone of the attorney client relationship and an MIDC standard."

Contact: jswidwa@TheHP.com, 932-0359, Twitter: @HPSwidwa

COVID-19 vaccination begins in Cass, Van Buren counties

By **HP STAFF**

HARTFORD — The Van Buren/Cass District Health Department (VBC-DHD) has received its first Phase 1A allocation of the COVID-19 vaccine (Moderna) and will be distributing it in phases, according to a news release issued Tuesday by the department.

Health department staff, who will be vaccinating other individuals, were the first to receive vaccine doses on Dec. 23, according to Danielle Persky, deputy health officer for the health department.

With health department staff now vaccinated, VBC-DHD Phase 1A clinics are beginning this week for first Emergency Medical Service (EMS) workers, first responders, and health care workers who are not being vaccinated through a hospital or other organization.

While Phase 1A clinics are only open to specific priority groups, the health department is already looking ahead to future phases.

As part of their planning, health department officials are asking critical infrastructure employers and direct care workers not affiliated with a hospital or

other organization to complete the vaccination survey available at www.vbcassdhd.org/covid-19-vaccine.

Completing the form will help VBCDHD plan logistics, such as clinic locations and vaccine order volume, and provide easy access to communication when necessary.

Distribution of the vaccine in Michigan will occur in a phased approach, as it will be several months before enough of the vaccine has been received to vaccinate everyone, according to Persky.

The prioritization guidance, established primarily by the Centers for Disease Control, has an emphasis on ensuring continued functioning of the health care system and essential services in the community, and protecting people at increased risk for severe COVID-19 illness. To find out where everyone has been categorized on the vaccine prioritization guidance, visit www.michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine.

For more information on the COVID-19 vaccine, visit www.vbcassdhd.org/covid-19-vaccine, or www.michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine.

State: About 71K received COVID-19 vaccinations

By **COREY WILLIAMS**
Associated Press

About 71,000 people have received the first of two rounds of coronavirus vaccinations in Michigan, where more than 483,000 virus cases have been confirmed.

Doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have been distributed to hospitals, local health departments and tribal health clinics. On Monday, the state announced that residents and staff at skilled nursing homes began receiving the Moderna vaccine.

"Everyone across the country wants these vaccines to be administered to people as quickly as possible," Michigan's Chief Medical Executive Dr. Joneigh Khaldun told reporters Tuesday. "If we get more vaccine, we will be getting it into people's arms as quickly as we can. But we are limited right now, like every state, by how much we have allocated."

Michigan's Department of Health and Human Services said it has received 231,075 doses of both COVID-19 vaccines.

On Tuesday, Michigan confirmed another 3,414

virus cases and 193 deaths, including 105 deaths found during a review of records. That brings total cases in the state since the start of the pandemic to 483,922 and deaths to 12,282.

Currently, the state is recording about 279 cases per one million people, a number that has been declining for more than 38 days. That rate still is four times what was at the start of September, Khaldun said.

Khaldun also said the state recently averaged 107 deaths per day compared to 123 deaths per day a week earlier.

"What we are seeing in the data is not a cause to celebrate," she added. "While Michiganders are doing a great job bringing our cases down, that progress is fragile. It only takes one gathering for it to spread through multiple households and their close contacts."

On Dec. 14, workers at two Michigan hospitals were the first in the state to receive a vaccine for the virus.

"It will take some time for this vaccine to be widely distributed to everyone," Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said Tuesday.

The Herald-Palladium
Editorial Board:

DAVID HOLGATE
Publisher

DAVE BROWN
Managing Editor

DALE BREWER
Local News Editor

KATIE KRAWCZAK
Design Editor

Listen to science – but listen carefully

Behold science, the sword and the shield of progressivism.

Over the course of the pandemic (and before that, in debates over climate change, stem cells, etc.), liberals have insisted that we must listen to science and

Jonah Goldberg



heed the scientists. It was a cornerstone of President-elect Joe Biden's campaign and a constant refrain of Donald Trump critics. Taken literally, I endorse the phrase "listen to science" wholeheartedly. Scientists have important things to say to policymakers and citizens alike – and let's not forget that in a democracy, voters are policymakers too. A well-informed electorate is a useful check on ill-informed politicians.

The problem, however, is that the people who say "listen to science" tend not to mean it literally but figuratively, and worse, intermittently.

In the aftermath of George Floyd's killing in May, massive protests against racism and police brutality erupted across the nation. The point of the protests (at least most of them) was noble and understandable. But the same champions of science suddenly changed their tune about mass

gatherings because this was a good cause.

In a pluralistic society, the definition of a good cause is going to vary. Telling people that they can't see their dying parents, attend a funeral or make a living because science says it's too risky but that protesting systemic racism and police brutality is OK is a great way to convince millions of people that "listen to science" is a weaponized political term, not a universal apolitical standard.

Indeed, liberals handed Trump precisely the kind of foil he wanted. At rallies, the president would tell the packed crowds that "they" don't want you to go to church, work, school or sporting events, but "they" think social-justice protests are fine. He even started calling his rallies "protests" to highlight the double standard. Some epidemiologists made things worse by stepping out of their lanes.

"We should always evaluate the risks and benefits of efforts to control the virus," Jennifer Nuzzo, an epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins, declared on Twitter. "In this moment the public health risks of not protesting to demand an end to systemic racism greatly exceed the harms of the virus."

I'm open to the idea that if the protests this summer could have ended racism, the benefits would

outweigh the risks. But where is the evidence that happened? Is racism over now? Heck, where was the evidence that such an outcome was in the realm of the possible in the first place?

I trust epidemiologists to explain how epidemiology works. But there is no transitive property to their expertise. The opinion that the protests would even come close to eradicating systemic racism and police brutality is just that – an opinion, and a flimsy one at that. Moreover, the opinion of medical scientists on such matters has no more authority than that of plumbers or electricians – and less than that of many social scientists or, dare I say it, politicians.

Which brings us to the point. Again, politicians should listen to scientists, but at the end of the day, they must consider factors from outside science. That's not only fine but unavoidable. Using the phrase "listen to the science" as a shield for your preferred policies or as an attack on policies you dislike is not only bad faith, it's a bad idea, because it will undermine the credibility of scientists and politicians alike.

Now that we're entering the vaccination chapter of this horrible story, many of the same science worshippers are, in effect, telling the scientists to listen to politics.

In California, there's an effort

to factor "historical injustice" into the vaccination rollout as a form of reparations. Because indigenous Americans were treated horribly in the past, the argument goes, they should be moved higher on the list of vaccine recipients.

A similar argument has emerged over whether the elderly – those most likely to die from COVID-19 – should be moved down the list because "older populations are whiter," as noted by Harald Schmidt, an assistant professor of medical ethics and health policy at the University of Pennsylvania.

"Society is structured in a way that enables them to live longer," Schmidt told the New York Times. "Instead of giving additional health benefits to those who already had more of them, we can start to level the playing field a bit."

Scientists are free to make such arguments, but these aren't scientific arguments. They are political opinions, and they don't become any more legitimate simply because you wear a lab coat at work. So by all means, listen to the scientists, but listen very carefully, because they might be saying things that aren't very scientific.

Jonah Goldberg is editor-in-chief of The Dispatch and the host of The Remnant podcast.

Hope for the new year

Another blessed year from God has come and gone. The difficulties the whole world has faced in 2020 have proven that without the blessings of God, things would not have just been bad, they would have been disastrous.

Billy Long
Opinion
Maker



Who would have thought that in less than a year America would trade a policy of America first for a policy of giving more aid to our enemies than to a hurting public and businesses that by and large are hurting because of misguided and confusing policies of bureaucrats? How could we accept the prosecution of homeowners defending their property from a mob and having charges dropped against a person who completely made up an assault in order to further a homophobic and racial stereotype? How could we accept the refusal of a judge, even after being ordered by a higher court, to drop charges against a decorated citizen and then have other courts refusing to press charges against anarchist who occupied parts of a city for over five months and declared themselves a sovereign entity?

How is it that we have rejected the idea of funding local police because of a few bad people but accept the idea that everything was open and above board by federal entities that refused to deal with proven facts concerning Hunter Biden and Joe Biden? How did it become possible for the testimony of people who were eyewitnesses to voter fraud be deemed as unreliable, yet a president was impeached by testimony of people who were not actually present at the incident or only had hearsay testimony.

How did the American people become so tolerant that we would accept the loss of so many constitutional rights and freedoms for the espousal of safety? I know this pandemic has been a new disease, but pandemics are not new. The major difference in this one is not the number of people infected. It is not even the number of people who have died from it. The major difference is how the government has politically manipulated the danger and ignored the Constitution. The highest law of the land is not elected officials or even the Supreme Court. The highest law of the land is the Constitution of the United States. It does not matter how many votes were cast, nor how long they have been in office; no one has the authority to override the Constitution. It can only be changed by the process of amendments. Yet we the people have given in to the wacky and confusing regulations that in so many cases directly conflict with our Constitution.

How did looting and burning and destruction of entire business become mostly "peaceful demonstrations" while having legally armed citizens in the streets, and yes even in the Capitol building of our state, become such an egregious act as to be deemed an insurrection by officials rather than a protest?

If things are so skewed that right has become wrong and wrong has been accepted, how could I start off by saying that 2020 has been a year blessed by God? Here is how. His grace is still available. Government has not removed that. His love still remains. Man's hatred has not changed that. His forgiveness still follows repentance. Man's refusal to turn from their wicked ways has not changed God's desire that all should come to repentance. God's will that all would be saved has not diminished in the assault on the free expression or exercise of religion.

Yes I am worried about the world in which my grandchildren are growing up. I have little to no confidence in either party to change their self-serving, money-hungry and power-grabbing ways. I do have confidence that no matter how difficult the journey, God will never leave his people nor forsake them. I find comfort in that, and pray that all of His citizens do as well.

May the year 2021 bring each of us renewed faith in God and renewed fervor in spreading the good news that God is alive and well. Happy New Year.

Billy P. Long of Benton Harbor has resided in the area since 1972. He is pastor of the Apostolic Tabernacle in Benton Township.

LETTERS

Fooled by the emperor's new clothes

Editor,

I'm reminded of a story by Hans Christian Andersen called "The Emperor's New Clothes." Two swindlers posing as weavers offer to make an emperor magnificent clothes that are invisible to those who are stupid or incompetent. Several officials who visit the swindlers to check on their progress see that the looms are empty but pretend otherwise to avoid being thought a fool. Even as the emperor parades naked down the street, townsfolk go along with the pretense not wanting to appear inept or stupid until a child blurts out that the emperor is wearing nothing at all.

We have a person in the White House who lost the election fair and square by all accounts and has had most of his unsubstantiated conspiracy theory lawsuits thrown out. However he has falsely convinced a lot of his followers that the election was a fraud, fake, stolen, rigged, he won in "a landslide," and members of his party have foolishly jumped on board to try and overturn the election by attempting to throw out legal, valid ballots in key states. He's even convinced them to contribute \$170 million to an "Election Defense Fund."

The moral is even a child can see reality when gullible adults blindly follow their leader and believe everything he tells them.

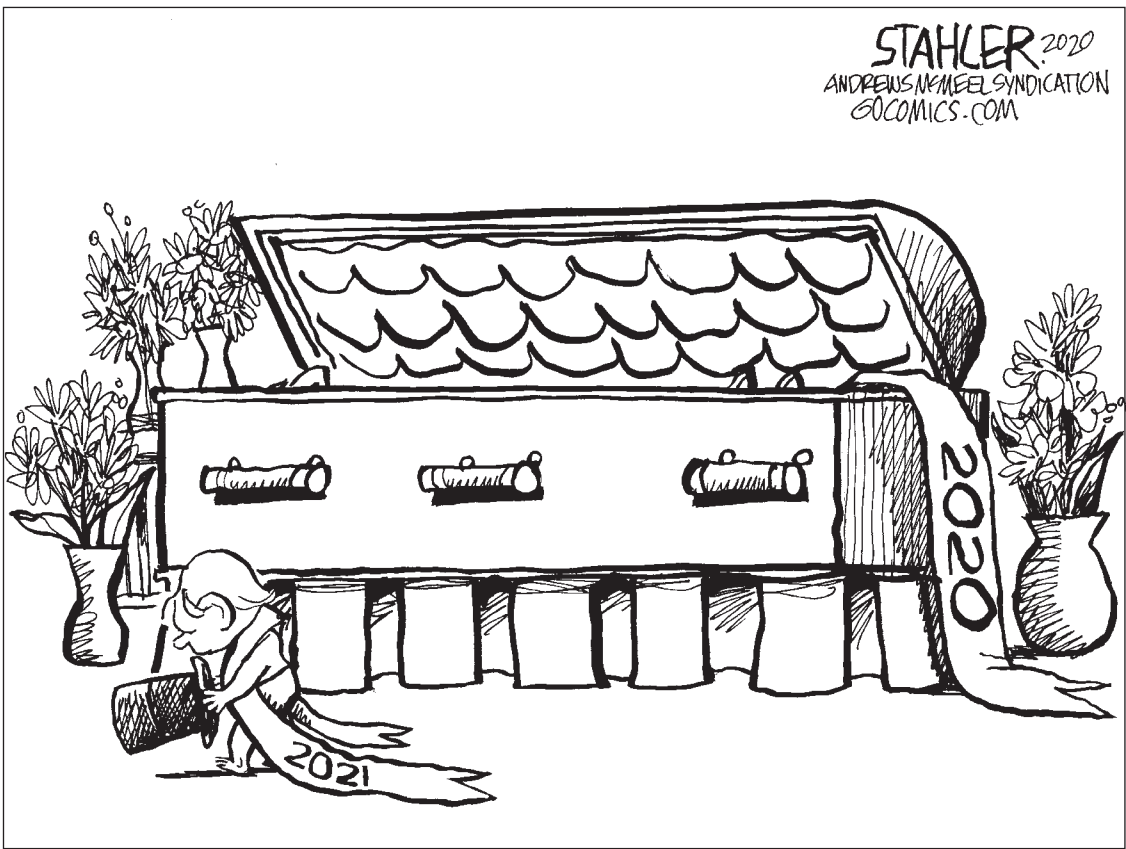
Alan D. Phillips
St. Joseph

Shutdowns have been good for state's health

Editor,

A recent letter writer stated that "closing bars is not the answer," and he is partially correct. It may not be the only answer but it is one of the best actions we can take, along with masking and distancing. It is not possible to dine and drink while masked and indoors. These are not unsupported "gut" feelings but facts supported by data.

All the following rates



are based on the number of COVID-19 patients per 100,000 population. While the Southwest counties of Michigan have rates of 40, 39, 37, 35, 30 and 39, across our southern border, 66, 88, 108 are the rates in our nearest Indiana neighbors. Ohio does a decent job at 58, while Indiana as a whole is 73, Illinois is 74, Wisconsin 81 and Michigan is 47. We are half the rates found in Indiana, so perhaps closing hasn't been so bad for our health.

I am sorry that it isn't easy to drive to Indiana for dinner, but please consider the health of your neighbors and get Michigan takeout. Gretchen has been a rock star.

Bill Sullivan
St. Joseph

Trump's damage may take years to fix

Editor,

My fellow Americans: Our long national nightmare is *not* over. Even if Trump doesn't manage to burn down the White House or destroy what is left of the government he has done his best to obliterate, don't kid

yourself: He's not going quietly. There is no telling what he might do in the coming weeks as he becomes more irrational and desperate to avoid the consequences of his incessant attacks on the U.S. Constitution, his perceived enemies (anyone who criticizes or fails to kowtow to him), and common decency.

Trump is frantically repopulating his sinking ship with a crew of whackos who are as crazy as he is, while the rest are abandoning it like the vermin they are. They are turning the White House into a nut house, and Trump appears to be headed straight from the oval office to a padded cell.

One can only hope that there are still a few sane, competent people who can keep the situation from spiraling totally out of control until Jan. 20 when, hopefully, he will be on his way back to Mar-a-Loco for good. Trying to put the country back together again is going to be a monumental undertaking of unprecedented proportions. It will take years, and most likely much of the damage can never be undone.

Write us

Here's how to submit a letter to the editor:

Email: letters@TheHP.com

Regular mail: Editorial Page, The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085

All letters should include a daytime telephone number and street address for verification. Letters must be 500 words or fewer. The Herald-Palladium reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, grammar, inappropriate content and libel. Anonymous letters will not be published.

This brings us to an inexorable question; what are so-called conservatives and the Republican Party going to do about it? Are they going to continue to follow the Trumpistas down the rat hole of no return, or are they going to rejoin the human race and try to help fix what has been gnawed away at for too many years to count?

Scott Elliott
Benton Harbor

ANOTHER OPINION

After 32 years, justice for Lockerbie

On Dec. 21, 32 years to the day after 270 people were murdered in the bombing of a jet traveling from London to New York, federal prosecutors charged the man who copped to building the explosive device that brought down Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. Credit the Justice Department under Attorney General Bill Barr, who kicked off his first stint as AG in 1991 by charging two other plotters, for seeing through the investigation on behalf of 190 Americans killed.

That Abu Agela Mas'ud Khair Al-Marimi, a Libyan intelligence official, now stands accused of a capital crime is due to federal authorities who made a specific, concerted effort last year to close the loop on long-languishing counterterrorism investigations; that push uncovered a 2012 confession to Libyan law enforcement by Mas'ud.

It is also a tribute to the aching heart and exhaustive work of Ken Dornstein, a college student in 1988 when his older

brother David was among the murder victims. Dornstein, who went on to become a documentarian, plunged himself into the facts of the case – zeroing in on Mas'ud and discovering that he was being held in a Libyan prison.

The urgent imperative now is extraditing Mas'ud here to face swift and sure justice. The two men who earlier stood trial for the murders – in the Netherlands, under Scottish law – escaped full punishment. One was acquitted. The other,

Abdelbasset Al-Megrahi, was convicted in 2001, then in 2009 shamefully granted compassionate release before his death in 2012.

Last week marked the end of Barr's second act leading the DOJ. To say the least, he has not always behaved honorably in the position. But his final acts – flatly rebutting Donald Trump's anti-democratic nonsense and bringing a terrorist who long evaded consequences to justice – have been his noblest ones.

– *New York Daily News*

OBITUARIES

Katherine Mary Darato

Dec. 21, 1945 – Dec. 17, 2020

Katherine Mary Darato, 74, of St. Joseph passed away Dec. 17, 2020, at Hanson Hospice Center, Stevensville.

Katherine was born on Dec. 21, 1945, to Andrew and Lucille Darato in Coloma. She lived in Coloma until sixth grade and spent the rest of her life in St. Joseph.

She was a graduate of Lake Michigan Catholic High School. Katherine worked at several local businesses over the years. She was generous, kind and easy going. After her parents died, she took care of two siblings: Beverly and Andrew.

She loved going to rummage sales, estate sales and book sales, and riding a bike down to Silver Beach and looking at the lake. She loved cooking, and cheering the Chicago Cubs on. She loved watching the birds outside her window. Katherine loved her faith. For many years she spent time in Adoration and had a special devotion to Our Blessed Mother.

In her later years she survived two noncancerous brain tumor operations but eventually became bedridden. She was cared for by her devoted sister, Laura



Darato.

A special thank you to neighbor, Phil Rood, for transporting Katherine to Ann Arbor Hospital and helping her to resume walking with the aid of a cane and for his help on many home repairs. Thanks to Matt Payovich for helping Katherine get to her doctor appointments. Cousin Bonnie Estkowski also helped her a lot, especially supplying wonderful meals.

She is survived by four siblings: Beverly Darato, Laura Darato, Sharon (Brian) Case of Kent, Wash., and Andrew Darato. She has two nieces: Belinda (Jimmy) Green, and Cassandra (Jim) Sprinkle. She really loved her grand-nephew, Mason Green. She is also survived by her brother-in-law, Charlie Shoemaker; and many cousins.

Preceding her in death are her parents: Andrew and Lucille Darato; and her sister, Linda Shoemaker.

Katherine's life will be honored with a Mass of Christian Burial at 2 p.m. Jan. 4, 2021, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 220 Church St., St. Joseph. Interment will take place at Calvary Cemetery in Benton Harbor at a later date.

Oskar Oelke

March 12, 1939 – Dec. 23, 2020

Oskar Oelke, 81, of Stevensville passed away Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. The son of Albert and Leokadia (Senft), he was born the youngest of three siblings on March 12, 1939, in Klemetyń, Poland.

Oskar spent his early life in Bielefeld, Germany, immigrating to the United States in 1956. He attended trade school at Lake Michigan College, earning a certificate in Tool & Die. He spent 40 years in the trade, a majority of that time at Precision Mold & Engineering.

Oskar enjoyed spending time with other local German folks, and as a young man played soccer for the Kicker's Club. He met his wife Anita at the DANK in 1965, where over the years they both enjoyed listening to live German music at dances and other social events. He was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Stevensville, where he often volunteered as an usher. His joys in life revolved around his family and children, and was lovingly referred to as Opa by all four grandchildren. One of his passions in life was traveling with his wife and kids,



especially to Canada and Germany to spend time with siblings and relatives. Oskar had an overall jovial spirit, and nothing made him happier than being surrounded by friends and family, telling a good story, making people laugh, listening to music, and sharing good food and drink together.

Oskar is survived by his wife, Anita; his children: Doris (Paul) Leal of Saginaw, Gerald (Sarah) Oelke of St. Peters, Mo.; four grandchildren: Maxwell and Alec Leal, Melissa and George Oelke; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and siblings: Emma Pufal, Edmund and Herman Oelke.

A celebration of life service will be at noon Saturday, Jan. 2, 2021, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 2673 W. John Beers Road, Stevensville, with the Rev. Jesse Knox officiating. Friends may visit with the family beginning at 11 a.m. Saturday at the church.

Memorial donations in Oskar's name may be made to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Those wishing to sign Oskar's Memory Book online may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Andrea L. Anderson

April 25, 1962 – Dec. 24, 2020

Andrea L. Anderson, 58, of Stevensville passed away Thursday, Dec. 24, 2020, at home.

Andrea was born on April 25, 1962, to Jack and Mayril "Dean" Anderson in St. Joseph. She worked as a CNA for many years and enjoyed taking care of others. Andrea was selfless, always putting others before herself. Most of all, she cherished time spent with her family.

Andrea is survived by her son, Ihn Anderson, of Stevensville; father, Jack (Mar-



ilyn) Anderson of Florida, and sisters: Lorna Woodhams of Kalamazoo and Julia Anderson of Florida.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Mayril "Dean" Anderson, and sister, Stacia Anderson.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association. Those wishing to send a condolence online may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Dorothy Joy Gerencser

Jan. 24, 1932 – Dec. 25, 2020

They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion, and they will rejoice in the goodness of the Lord, for the grain, the new wine, the oil, and the young of the flocks and herds. Their lives will thrive like a well-watered garden. They will not grow weak anymore. Jeremiah 31:12

Friends and family of Dorothy Joy Gerencser, 88, do rejoice that she is in God's heavenly garden and is no longer subject to the frailties of this world. Born Jan. 24, 1932, in Chicago to Chester and Camille (Meyer) Netwig, she died in the early hours of Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 2020, in South Haven.

Known as Mickey to all, she moved to Benton Harbor in 1948 with her mother and stepfather, Ted Streit, bringing with her a love of Chicago and especially of the Cubs, of whom she was a lifelong fan.

After graduating from Benton Harbor High School in 1950, she married Bill Gerencser in 1951 and the couple went on to have five children: JoAnn, Susan, Elaine, John and Steven.

Initially Mickey and Bill farmed near Spinks Corners, Mich., later moving to Benton Harbor and then Fairplain. Mickey's name became well known locally when she and Bill first purchased the Anchor Inn and then, along with Anna and Jenó Bilicz, opened Mickey's Place restaurant, followed by Mickey's Pub in St. Joseph. She later established a women's boutique in Saugatuck called Mickey's Summer Place. Around that time, she renovated an old house in South Haven for herself and her pets and developed an amazing garden that was included on the South Haven Garden Club tour. Mickey became an active member of St. Paul Lutheran Church and was involved with both the SH Scott Club and SH Garden Club.

Mickey was preceded in death by her parents; stepfather; brother, Chester; sister Camille; and two daughters: Susan and Elaine.

She is survived by three children and their spouses: JoAnn (Ron) Klug of South



Haven, John (Linda) Gerencser of Lititz, Pa., and Steven (Elaine Roth) Gerencser of Mishawaka, Ind. She is also survived by her precious grandchildren: Samuel Fields, Michal (Dave) Frazee, Suzannah (Alexander) Deneau, Margrette (Jay) McWilliams, Lillie (Vinod) Ponnusamy, John (Tristan) Klug, Alexandra (Sergio) Ramos-Klug, Steven J. Gerencser, Susan Gerencser, and Nicholas Gerencser. Mickey's adored great-grandchildren are: Koba Jaisser, Claire and Liam McWilliams, William Frazee, Carolyn, Vincent, and Carson Deneau, Jordi and Petra Ponnusamy, Wilder and Flora Klug, and Santiago Ramos-Klug. She is also survived by numerous dear nieces, nephews, and beloved cousins: Anna and Jenó Bilicz and Robert Kish Sr.

Mickey's family wishes to thank South Haven Nursing & Rehabilitation Community, and its staff for their indefatigable kindness and loving care extended to her for the last four and a half years. We are grateful for the compassionate consideration offered by Bronson South Haven Hospital during Mickey's last hours. We thank Filbrandt Family Funeral Home for their assistance to the family. Cremation has taken place, per Mickey's wish.

A memorial service will be at 10 a.m. Jan. 8, 2021, St. Paul Lutheran Church in South Haven, with Pastor Stephen Daley officiating. The service will be livestreamed and archived for virtual viewing at <https://www.stpaulsouthhaven.com>, and the public is encouraged to make use of this alternative in consideration of the current health crisis. Condolences and memories may also be left in Mickey's posting at <https://www.filbrandtffh.com>.

In lieu of flowers, the family recommends sending memorials to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Benton Harbor, where Mickey was a member for many years; St. Paul Lutheran Church, South Haven, or to Michigan Lutheran High School, St. Joseph.

The family is being helped by the Filbrandt Family Funeral Home in South Haven.

Malachi K. Dezale

July 22, 2002 – Dec. 21, 2020

Malachi K. Dezale, 18, of Benton Harbor passed away Monday, Dec. 21, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. A celebration of life service will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 2, 2021, at Starks & Menchinger Chapel, 2650 Niles Road, St. Joseph with Pastor Patrick Patterson officiating.

Out of respect for the family and guests in attendance, masks and proper social distancing will be required. Burial will be held at St. Simeon Catholic Cemetery, Aurora, Colo. Livestreaming will be available at www.tinyurl.com/SMChapel or on our website. Memorial contributions may be made to Benton Harbor High School Athletics Programs, 870 Colfax Ave., Benton Harbor or The Boys & Girls Club of Benton Harbor, <https://www.bgcbbh.org/donate-now>. Those wishing to leave an online condolence may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Malachi was born on July 22, 2002, in Denver, to Koko Dezale and Catherine Jusu. He graduated from Benton Harbor High School this



past year. While in high school, Malachi played football for the Benton Harbor Tigers and basketball for Countryside Academy. He was also very involved with The Boys & Girls Club of Benton Harbor.

Malachi was a graduate of the Club's Passport to Manhood program, as well as the Michigan Youth Leadership Academy presented by the Michigan State Police. He also enjoyed shopping and playing video games.

Malachi is survived by his mother, Catherine (Ira) Jusu Burton of Benton Harbor; father, Koko (Flora) Dezale of Canada; grandfather, Bernard Jusu; grandmother, Georgette Dezale; brother, Shaquille Jusu; aunts: Irene Koko, Stacious Jusu Smith, Sando Jusu and Kumba Jusu; cousins: Maude Smith, Jimmy Tengbeh, Aaliya Smith, Jasmine Tengbeh, Alexis Smith, Martha Jusu, Patience Jusu, Rose Gooding, Petrina Jusu, and Johnathan Tengbeh; and many other aunts, uncles, and cousins in Europe, Africa and America.

He was preceded in death by his grandmothers: Martha Jusu and Linda Jusu Shells.

Death notices

Andrea L. Anderson, 58, of Stevensville died Dec. 24, 2020. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Lynn Ballew, 65, of Niles died Dec. 26, 2020. Halbritter-Wickens Funeral Home, Niles, 683-3000.

Katherine Mary Darato, 74, of St. Joseph died Dec. 17, 2020. Purely Cremations – Starks Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Benton Harbor, 926-9440.

Malachi K. Dezale, 18, of Benton Harbor died Dec. 21, 2020. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Dorothy Joy Geencser, 88, of South Haven died Dec. 25, 2020. Filbrandt Family Funeral Home, South Haven, 637-0333.

Arvell Hudson, 49, of Benton Harbor died Dec. 26, 2020. Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Henry McGee Jr., 65, of Benton Harbor died Dec. 19, 2020. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

Mary Ann McNees, 78, of Enterprise, Ala., died Dec. 27, 2020. Pike Funeral Home, Boyd Chapel, Bridgman, 465-3239.

Oskar Oelke, 81, of Stevensville died Dec. 23, 2020. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Robert Peterson, 82, of Sawyer died Dec. 24, 2020. Purely Cremations – Starks Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Benton Harbor, 926-9440.

Daryl L. Ray, 59, formerly of Benton Harbor died Dec. 24, 2020. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

Rick Schram, 61, of Niles died Dec. 27, 2020. Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Lan Nie Tjiam, 68, of St. Joseph died Dec. 28, 2020. Heritage Chapel & Cremation Services, Berrien Springs, 471-2700.

Leon Williams, 79, formerly of Benton Harbor, died Dec. 22, 2020. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

Mary Ann McNees

Aug. 16, 1942 – Dec. 27, 2020

Mary Ann McNees, 78, of Enterprise, Ala., passed away Sunday, Dec. 27, 2020, surrounded by her loving family after a courageous battle with cancer.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021, at Pike Funeral and Cremation Services, Boyd Chapel, 9191 Red Arrow Hwy, Bridgman. Friends may meet the family from 10 to 11 a.m. prior to the service. In lieu of flowers donations can be made in Mary Ann's memory to Special Olympics of Alabama, 880 South Court Street, Montgomery, AL 36104. Online condolences accepted at www.pikefh.com.

Mary Ann was born on Aug. 16, 1942, to the late Donald and Margaret Perlick. She was preceded in death by her sisters: Cora Littke (Ken) and Judy Perlick.

Mary Ann had such a love for her family and enjoyed being around people in general. She was an avid reader, especially books by author Nora Roberts. She loved to cook and made lots of de-



licious desserts, but her specialty was rhubarb pie. Mary Ann was well known for many years as the local Walmart door greeter.

She is survived by her husband of 55 years, David McNees of Enterprise, Ala.; children: Wayne (Sherry) McNees of Jacksonville, Fla., Scott (Mary) McNees of Charles Town, W.Va., and Terri McNees of Enterprise; sister, Nora (John) Drehman of Daleville, Ala.; grandchildren: Amanda Fox of Enterprise, Taylor McNees of Orlando, Fla., Matthew McNees of Jacksonville, Fla., Corey McNees of Charles Town, Chris McNees of Rockville, Md., Katie McNees of Charles Town, Charles Clark (Jessica) of Huntsville, Ala., Benjamin (Chloe) Clark of Huntsville, and Daniel Clark of Enterprise; and great-grandchildren: Eden Clark, Charlie Clark, Lincoln Clark and Laurel Fox.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Boyd Chapel of Pike Funeral and Cremations Service, 9191 Red Arrow Highway, Bridgman.

Jessica Ensing

Feb. 24, 1986 – Dec. 27, 2020

Jessica Marie Ensing, 34, of West Olive, Mich., passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, Dec. 27, 2020, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Jessica was born on Feb. 24, 1986, in St. Joseph. She graduated from Coloma High School in 2004.

She loved traveling, boating, snowmobiling, and spending time with friends and family. She also enjoyed her summer home at Silver Lake. Her love of life was evident to all who met her and her heart touched many lives. She achieved director status and was known as the "Bag Lady" with Thirty-One Gifts and donated many bags to cancer centers and patients all over West Michigan.

She will be lovingly remembered by her husband of 12 years, Matthew; children: Lauren, Levi; parents: Bruce and Deborah Becker, Rick and Phyllis Ensing; brothers-in-law: Josh Ensing, Gabe and Jessica (Bussa) Ensing; and many aunts, uncles,



cousins and friends. She is preceded in death by her grandparents: Raymond and Florence Bock, Bernie Becker, and Charlene Becker.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, at Ottawa Reformed Church, 11390 Stanton St., West Olive, with the Rev. Michael Van Buren officiating. Burial will be held at Allendale Cemetery.

Relatives and friends may meet the family from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Matthyse Kuiper DeGraaf Funeral Home, 6651 Scott St., Allendale, MI 49401.

Due to gathering restrictions, there will be a limit on the number of people who may enter the building at a time. Those who wish may make memorial contributions to Thirty-One Gives (<https://www.mythirtyone.com/us/en/info/Gives>) or the Ottawa Reformed Church Wednesday night program. Condolences may be sent online at www.mkdfuneralhome.com.

Will COVID-19 vaccines work on the new variant?

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Will COVID-19 vaccines work on the new coronavirus variant?

Experts believe so, but they're working to confirm that.

A coronavirus variant in the United Kingdom has

caused alarm because of the possibility that it might spread more easily. But even if that turns out to be true, experts say the COVID-19 vaccines being rolled out will likely still work on the variant.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top U.S. infectious disease

expert, said data coming from Britain indicates the vaccines still will block the virus. But the U.S. also will do tests to be sure.

Viruses often undergo small changes as they reproduce and move through a population. In fact, the slight modifications are how

scientists track the spread of a virus from one place to another.

But if a virus mutates significantly enough, one worry is that current vaccines might no longer offer as much protection. And although that's a possibility to watch for over time with

the coronavirus, experts say they don't believe it will be the case with the variant in the U.K.

"My expectation is, this will not be a problem," said Moncef Slaoui, the chief science adviser for the U.S. government's COVID-19 vaccine push.

Getting it straight

The Herald-Palladium makes every effort to ensure accuracy in its stories.

If you think there is an error, please contact the editor of the page on which it occurred. If you are unsure of whom to contact, call Local News Editor Dale Brewer at 429-3797.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

1995 – 25 years ago

The National Audubon Society is holding its 96th Christmas Bird Count, which started earlier this month. The idea is to pick one day, go to the assigned circle, which covers 177 square miles, and spend as much time as possible counting birds. Love Creek Nature Center and Fernwood Botanical Garden had counts in Berrien County earlier this month, while Sarett Nature Center will holds its from dawn to dusk Sunday.

1985 – 35 years ago

Lake Michigan College has added a beginning badminton class to its list of second semes-

ter courses, according to Don Alsbro, a physical education instructor. Alsbro, who will teach the 15-week course, has been playing badminton a number of years, and is currently ranked fourth in the Midwest Seniors Division.

1970 – 50 years ago

Students of the new Michigan Lutheran High School have selected the nickname of Titans and purple and white as school colors. The school opened in September for ninth graders only in an educational wing of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Benton Township. Plans call for addition of a grade a year until a four-year high school is achieved.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 30, the 365th day of 2020. There is one day left in the year.

Highlight in history:
On Dec. 30, 1903, about 600 people died when fire broke out at the recently opened Iroquois Theater in Chicago.

On this date:

In 1853, the United States and Mexico signed a treaty under which the U.S. agreed to buy some 45,000 square miles of land from Mexico for \$10 million in a deal known as the Gadsden Purchase.

In 1922, Vladimir Lenin proclaimed the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which lasted nearly seven decades before dissolving in December 1991.

In 1936, the United Auto Workers union staged its first “sit-down” strike at the General Motors

Fisher Body Plant No. 1 in Flint, Michigan. (The strike lasted until Feb. 11, 1937.)

In 1940, California’s first freeway, the Arroyo Seco Parkway connecting Los Angeles and Pasadena, was officially opened by Gov. Culbert L. Olson.

In 1972, the United States halted its heavy bombing of North Vietnam.

In 1994, a gunman walked into a pair of suburban Boston abortion clinics and opened fire, killing two employees. (John C. Salvi III was later convicted of murder; he died in prison, an apparent suicide.)

In 2004, a fire broke out during a rock concert at a nightclub in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 194 people. Bandleader and clarinetist Artie Shaw died in Thousand Oaks, California, at age 94.

In 2006, a state funeral service was held in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda for former President Gerald R. Ford.

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

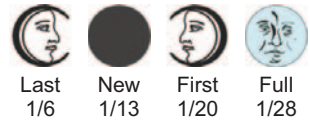
Today	Tonight	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					
Rain Likely	Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Rain Likely	Rain & Snow Possible	Mostly Cloudy
39°	26°	34° / 27°	42° / 33°	38° / 27°	36° / 28°

Local Outlook

Today we will see cloudy skies with a 100% chance of rain, high temperature of 39°, humidity of 80%. Southwest wind 16 to 19 mph. Expect cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 26°. West wind 6 to 16 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 15°.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise 8:13 a.m.
Sunset 5:23 p.m.
Moonrise 5:53 p.m.
Moonset 8:49 a.m.



Local Almanac

Benton Harbor Yesterday
Temperature
High 33°
Low 17°
Normal High 32°
Normal Low 18°
Record High 54° in 2006
Record Low 5° in 2010
Precipitation
Yesterday 0.00"
Month to date 1.67"
Normal for month 2.03"
Year to date 33.70"
Normal Year to date 37.36"

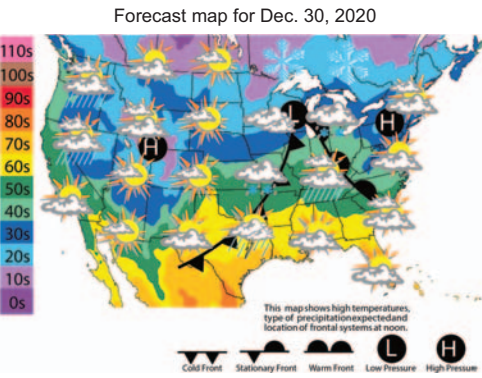
Air Quality

Yesterday 43
Main Offender Particles
The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.
0-50 Good
51-100 Moderate
101-150 Sensitive
151-200 Unhealthy

Weather Trivia

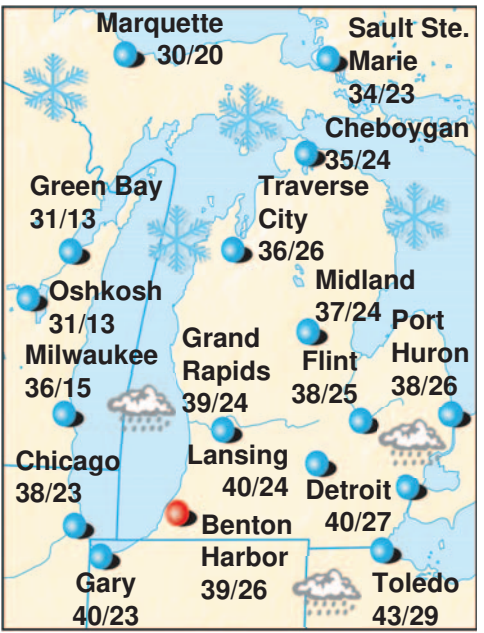
What is the Bermuda High?
Answer: Each summer, a huge area of high pressure sets up over Bermuda.

National Weather Map



For latest weather updates: www.UpdatedWx.com/HP

Regional Map



Lake Michigan

Today, S wind around 19 kt. Rain. Waves 2 to 4 ft. Water temperature 35 degrees. Tonight, WNW wind 12 to 18 kt, with gusts as high as 24 kt. Cloudy. Waves 3 to 4 ft.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Today, skies will be cloudy with widespread snow, highs in the 30s. South southwest wind 14 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies Thursday with highs in the 20s and 30s. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Lower Peninsula

Today, skies will be cloudy with widespread rain, highs in the 30s and 40s. Southwest wind 16 to 19 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies Thursday with highs in the 30s. South wind 2 to 6 mph.

From the camera rolls of American phones, glimpses of 2020

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A year like no other: Americans shambled through it, doing the best they could under circumstances that were uneven at best – and sometimes downright punishing.

As they endured, here and there they pulled out their phones and did what so many people do these days: They snapped photos of the world around them.

Snapshots of 2020. We all have them. And behind some are the stories of an era of pandemic and polarization and progress and upheaval and daily life – the visual representations of the lives people experienced and the moments they captured.

Associated Press reporters went back to some of the people they interviewed during the news events of the past year and asked a straightforward question: What image on your phone’s camera roll tells YOUR story of 2020?

Dale Todd, Iowa

The Aug. 10 derecho that hammered Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with winds up to 140 mph severely damaged tens of thousands of homes and

businesses and devastated the community’s tree canopy.

Much of the city of 130,000 people was without electricity for a week or longer. “It feels like we got kicked in the teeth pretty good,” city councilor Dale Todd says.

But Todd says the lack of power and air conditioning caused something “sort of magical” to happen: Once-distant neighbors came together to help as the city started a massive effort to clear debris.

Todd’s family and neighbors gathered every night for community meals, at first featuring meats that had to be used or would spoil. They talked about their days and looked at the stars from Todd’s backyard without distractions from cellphones or television.

In this photo, Todd’s wife, Sara, fixes the mask of their 21-year-old son, Adam, who has severe epilepsy. Todd calls the photo a reminder of the “powerful sense of community that evolved.”

“That is what is going to get us through this pandemic, through this next year with the economy,” he says, “and hopefully it can be a



Dale Todd via AP
Dale Todd’s wife Sara fixes the mask of their 21-year-old son Adam in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on Aug. 11. For Todd, a city councilor, this photo is a reminder of the “powerful sense of community that evolved” following the Aug. 10 derecho that hammered the city with winds up to 140 mph, severely damaging tens of thousands of homes and businesses. In the days after the storm, Todd’s family and neighbors would gather every night for community meals.

model for how we rebuild our politics and sense of democracy.”
By Ryan Foley

Ruth Caballero, New York

When home health nurse Ruth Caballero looks at an April photo of her wearing her full kit of pandemic



Courtesy of Ruth Caballero via AP
Ruth Caballero, a home health nurse, poses for a photo in her full kit of pandemic protective gear just moments before walking into a New York City apartment to see one of her first coronavirus patients in April 2020. When she looks at this photo, she sees a feeling: “How scared I was.”

that on and saying to myself, ‘Please, let me be able to be as effective medically to help this patient as much as I can. And please allow me to stay COVID-negative,’” recalls Caballero, who works for the Visiting Nurse Service of New York. Moments later, Caballero came face-to-face with the ravages of COVID-19,

meeting a tremendously weakened patient who asked: “Nurse, did they send me home to die?”

“No, they sent you home to live,” Caballero remembers saying. “And we’re going to fight this together.”

Caballero’s cellphone photo is a portrait, one of many, of New York City’s fearsome battle with the coronavirus. During an early April peak, it was blamed for over 750 deaths a day in the city alone. Still, Caballero glimpses more than those desperate times when she looks at that picture.

She also thinks of how different she felt two or three months later, as that first surge subsided, protective equipment shortages eased and she gained experience caring for coronavirus patients – and seeing them get better.

By then, “I looked forward to being able to provide them with nursing care,” says Caballero, who now has worked with more than 50 COVID-19 patients. “I’m not afraid,” she says. “Whatever I can do to help them recover, it is one of my greatest joys.”

By Jennifer Peltz

VACCINE

From page A1

Local health officials say there isn’t a whole lot for the general public to plan for just yet, but there are some things folks can do to prepare.

“While it’s really good to be thinking as far ahead as possible, right now, a big part of people’s plans is just to be staying informed, following the news, getting updates from the health department and making sure they are paying attention to when their priority group will be up,” Conrad said.

She said she’s heard from people who are worried they’re going to miss their chance to get vaccinated.

“I want to assure people, it’s not like there will only be one opportunity,” Conrad said. “There will be days, weeks, potentially months spent trying to reach everybody in different priority groups.”

Conrad, the BCHD’s communications manager, said the health department should have a more solid timeline as they move into 2021, and will get that information out as widely as possible, using every pos-



Photos provided / BCHD

The Berrien County Health Department prepares for vaccination clinics.

sible platform and method they can, including the news media and social media.

“Once we’re at a point where we have a vaccination clinic schedule that we can publish, like drive-thru clinics with their hours and how to make appointments, or if they’re walk-in, we’re going to make sure people know about that and they know how to go about getting the vaccine,” she said.

A lot of the local COVID-19 vaccination plan is still dependent on the state and federal governments, the vaccine manufacturers, and supply and demand.

Conrad said one thing folks in later phases and priority groups can do is decide if they’re going to get the vaccine.

“We would encourage that group of people who are eager to get it as soon as it’s available to them to make a plan for where you think you might get the vaccine,” she said. “It really does depend on where you fall in the priority phases. It could be at the health department, it could be at drive-thru clinic, it could be at a pharmacy or your doctor’s office.”

Conrad said as vaccine availability increases, so will the number of provid-



Julie Billingsley, at registered nurse at Berrien County Health Department, receives her COVID-19 vaccine this week.

ers who are able to give the COVID-19 vaccine. Right now the only providers include health departments and hospital systems.

“For people who might still be on the fence about getting the vaccine at all, maybe waiting and seeing is part of your plan. It could be to hold off and not receive it right away, but just to see how things go over the next couple of months,” she said.

Conrad said public health officials are hopeful that confidence in the vaccine will grow as time goes on, and people will decide that it’s not only beneficial for themselves, but for their

community.
“Right now, if you’re not in one of those priority groups, you just have to hang tight and keep taking the preventative actions we’ve been taking,” she said.

The BCHD is encouraging everyone to signup for its vaccine newsletter. Conrad said updates will be sent as the department has them. She estimates about every other week or so.

“That is one good action folks can take when they’re feeling eager to get involved,” she said.

To sign up, and for more COVID vaccine information, visit <http://www.bchdmi.org/1745/>

COVID-19-Vaccine-Information. To sign up for a newsletter from the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department, visit <https://vbcassdhd.org/covid-19-vaccine>.

COVID numbers update

Berrien County is averaging about 39 new COVID-19 cases a day this week, with 44 being recorded on Tuesday.

COVID hospitalizations at Spectrum Health Lakeland rose to 52 on Tuesday, up from 42 on Monday. Last Tuesday, the hospital reported 36 COVID patients admitted.

BCHD and Spectrum Health Lakeland officials will give a COVID-19 update at 11 a.m. today via Facebook Live on Spectrum Health Lakeland’s Facebook page @SpectrumHealthLakeland.

Van Buren County recorded two additional COVID-19 deaths Tuesday, bringing the county’s death toll to 72. No deaths were recorded in Cass County.

Cass County recorded 36 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, while Van Buren County recorded 31.

Contact: anewman@TheHP.com, 932-0357, Twitter: @HPANewman

hpSPORTS

MHSAA announces plans to finish fall tournaments

Football practice underway; volleyball, girls swimming to resume next week

By HP STAFF

The Michigan High School Athletic Association is hoping to finally wrap up its fall sports postseason in January. The MHSAA has released

its latest plan to conclude its three remaining tournaments, with football resuming practice this week and girls swimming and volleyball beginning next week. All three sports have been on hold since an emergency order was issued on Nov. 15 to contain the spread of COVID-19. In all three sports, athletes, coaches, and other personnel directly involved in competi-

tion must take part in a rapid COVID-19 testing pilot program created by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. They must test three times per week using BinaxNOW antigen tests that produce results within 15 minutes, according to an MHSAA news release. Football was allowed to begin non-contact drills on Monday, with testing to start today. Players must produce

one negative test before resuming full-contact practice. Regional championship games will take place Jan. 9, with semifinals Jan. 16 and the state finals the weekend of Jan. 22-23. No local teams are still competing in the football playoffs. Lakeshore reached the regional finals, where it was scheduled to play DeWitt, but opted out of the tournament due to concerns

about player availability as well as the testing program. Volleyball and girls swimming can begin practice next Monday. Both St. Joseph and the Bridgman co-op team qualified swimmers for the state finals, which will be held Jan. 16. St. Joseph qualified its 200-yard medley relay team of Mia Wurster, Sylvia Park, Breanne Pratley and Addie Straub for the Division 2

state finals at Grand Rapids Northview. Bridgman had one qualifier for the Division 1 meet at Hudsonville, Audrey Dixon, in the 100 and 200 freestyle. Volleyball quarterfinals will be held Jan. 12, with semifinals Jan. 14-15 and finals Jan. 16. No local teams remain in the tournament. Spectators will not be allowed at competitions in any of the three sports.

The Darvish trade is a cost-saving move – and it starts the undoing of the Cubs

It all looked so good on paper. The new, expanded home clubhouse with plenty of space, flat-screen TVs and cryotherapy chambers. The chefs making healthier meals. The proliferation of mental skills coaches. The yoga instructor. The technological investments. The postgame dance-party room.

Paul Sullivan



Anything Chicago Cubs Chairman Tom Ricketts could do to help the players succeed, he was willing to do it.

And the more the Cubs won, the higher the ticket prices at Wrigley Field soared and the easier it became to sell exclusive club memberships, premium seating and rooftop parties. Not to mention the ability to fill the newly-built restaurants and shops near Wrigley, cram advertising signage in the bleachers and sell commercial time for the new TV network co-owned with Sinclair Broadcasting. The infamous “wheelbarrows of cash” would land at the foot of team President Theo Epstein for years to come, making the Cubs organization the envy of every team in baseball.

This was the vision that turned Wrigleyville into Rickettsville, a mini-version of River North and a far cry from the days of Yum-Yum Donuts and a cramped postgame interview room nicknamed “The Dungeon.”

And it seemed to be working well when the Cubs signed Yu Darvish to a six-year, \$126 million deal in 2018 before spring training. The Cubs had ended their historic championship drought only 15 months earlier, and the addition of one of the top free-agent starters was designed to keep the window of opportunity open until at least 2023. But Epstein is gone, the wheelbarrow is empty, and new President Jed Hoyer finally has initiated the Undoing, trading Darvish to the San Diego Padres in an old-fashioned salary dump. A rebuild that unofficially began nine years ago with the trade of DJ LeMahieu and Tyler Colvin to the Colorado Rockies for Ian Stewart and Casey Weathers now seems headed in the opposite direction. The Cubs will receive four young prospects and



Clemson linebacker Baylon Spector, bottom center, and Notre Dame running back Kyren Williams, right, scramble to grab a fumble during the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game Dec. 19.

Kelly: Run the ball

Notre Dame seeking a jumpstart against Alabama in CFP semifinal

By JOHN FINERAN Associated Press

SOUTH BEND — Brian Kelly isn’t holding back on one of the primary goals for Notre Dame in the College Football Playoff semifinal against Alabama on Friday. “We want to run the ball, we need to run the football,” Kelly said. “Based upon who we are and how we have operated this year, we will have to run the ball more effectively that we did the last time we played.” The last time out was a 34-10 loss in the ACC championship to No. 2 Clemson, a sour note for the Fighting Irish heading into the showdown against the top-ranked Crimson Tide. The laundry list of what wrong was long – 44 rushing yards on 30 carries, six sacks of quarterback Ian Book and just 3 of 12 on third-down conversions. Next up is the high-powered Ala-

bama offense led by a pair of Heisman Trophy finalists in quarterback Mac Jones and wide receiver DeVonta Smith with rugged running back Najee Harris pounding away for a team that averages 49.2 points through 11 straight victories. The best way to stop that, Kelly believes, is by keeping the offense on the sideline. Notre Dame’s offense is averaging 33:57 minutes of ball control per game (eighth nationally). “We’re cognizant of the fact that this is an electric offense that scores bushels and bushels of points,” Kelly said of the Tide. “Our offense has traditionally been a ball-control offense. We can’t come into this game and change who we are. That’s kind of been our DNA this year. We can’t be three-and-out. We want to hold on to the football.” After eking out a 12-7 victory over Louisville Oct. 17, Notre Dame went on a six-game winning streak during which it won the time of possession battle in each game while averaging 217 rushing yards, 279 passing yards and more than 40 points per game. Included in that stretch was a 47-40

double-overtime victory over then top-ranked Clemson during which Book finished with 377 yards in total offense and running back Kyren Williams had 140 rushing yards, one of his six games over 100 yards during a 1,061-yard debut season. The fourth-ranked Irish will be without junior center Jarrett Patterson, the vocal leader on the offensive line with 21 consecutive starts before season-ending foot surgery in late November. “Jarrett is the best center in the country, if I’m being honest,” insisted second-team Associated Press All-America tackle Liam Eichenberg. “We miss one of our best players.” The Irish have started first sophomore Zeke Correll, who suffered an ankle sprain late against North Carolina, and now senior Josh Lugg in Patterson’s place. But the line hasn’t been the same because of some poor execution – Correll and Lugg each have had snap issues – and has surrendered 10 sacks of Book in the last three games. “We have to focus one play at a time,

See IRISH, page B2

Alabama’s Smith AP Player of the Year

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

DeVonta Smith of Alabama is The Associated Press college football player of the year and the first wide receiver to win the award since it was established in 1998. In what could be a preview of the Heisman Trophy voting, Smith received 26 first-place votes and 114 points to finish comfortably ahead of his teammate and quarterback, Mac Jones. Jones received nine first-place votes and 67 points as he and Smith became the first teammates to finish 1-2 in the voting for AP player of the year. Smith is also the first Alabama player to win the award. “Probably one of the most selfless guys that I’ve ever had the opportunity to coach in terms of whatever he can do to help the team he wants to do,” Tide coach Nick Saban said. “The guy is one of the most popular guys on the team and also one of the leaders of the team that everybody looks up to because of the example that he sets every day and how he goes about his work.” Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence finished third with nine first-place votes and 49 points and Florida quarterback Kyle Trask was fourth with three first-place votes and 44



Bruce Newman

Alabama’s DeVonta Smith reacts after a third-quarter touchdown reception against Mississippi during a Sept. 28, 2019 game. DeVonta Smith is The Associated Press college football player of the year, becoming the first wide receiver to win the award since it was established in 1998.

Blackhawks’ Toews sidelined indefinitely by illness

By JAY COHEN Associated Press

CHICAGO — Chicago Blackhawks captain Jonathan Toews will miss the start of training camp because of an illness, and there is no timetable for his return. The 32-year-old Toews said Tuesday he has been experiencing symptoms that have left him feeling “drained and lethargic.”

“I am extremely disappointed, but it wouldn’t be fair to myself or my teammates to attempt to play in my current condition,” Toews said in a release.

The loss of Toews is the biggest blow in a tough stretch for Chicago heading into the 56-game season, which begins on Jan. 13. The veteran center, a three-time Stanley Cup winner with the Blackhawks, had 18 goals and 42 assists in 70 games last season, but he also is one of the team’s best defensive forwards and face-off options.

The announcement of Toews’ illness comes in the wake of injuries for Kirby Dach and Alex Nylander that could sideline the young forwards for the entire season.

Dach had surgery Monday after he fractured his right wrist while playing for Canada’s world junior team during an exhibition last week. Nylander had surgery on Dec. 21 for a meniscus tear in his left knee.

The Blackhawks made the playoffs last season for the first time since 2017, but they were eliminated by Vegas in the first round. Veteran goaltender Corey Crawford then left in free agency as part of the team’s increased commitment to rebuilding, and Brandon Saad was traded to Colorado.

The additions of Mattias Janmark, Lucas Wallmark and Carl Soderberg – all responsible, two-way forwards – should help Chicago stay in games, but the loss of Toews for any extended period would be tough for the team to overcome.

“Jonathan’s health is our top priority as he deals with this medical issue,” President of Hockey Operations Stan Bowman said. “The Chicago Blackhawks organization and our medical staff will provide all necessary resources to help him return to playing hockey. While he will not report to training camp on January 3 and will be out indefinitely, we will continue to support him as he is an important part of our family.”

There was no word from Toews or the team on what might be causing his symptoms, and he asked for privacy while he focuses on his health and recovery.



TOEWS

SULLIVAN

From page B1

Zach Davies for Darvish and catcher Victor Caratini, while eating a small amount of the \$59 million remaining on Darvish’s contract. We won’t know for several years whether any of those prospects will pan out, but unless Hoyer reinvests the savings into major league-ready players, the move will be considered a slap in the face to Cubs fans.

The Darvish deal may be the Cubs’ most unpopular offseason move since Mark DeRosa was sent to the Cleveland Indians on New Year’s Eve 2008.

But no one should be too surprised. Ricketts has been vocal about his allegedly “biblical” losses for months, as his water-carrying media members have exclusively “reported” during the pandemic. We knew the Cubs would shed some salaries, and the estimated 2021 payroll already is down to \$141 million, according to rosterresource.com.

The only real surprise is that the first to go was Darvish instead of Kris Bryant, whose days likely are numbered if Hoyer can get the right deal. And if Hoyer could trade closer Craig Kimbrel, he’d save another \$17 million – though no one likely would acquire Kimbrel without the Cubs paying most of the salary.

Jason Heyward has \$63 million remaining on the final three years of his deal.

Anyone interested? Hello? Am I on mute?

It’s easy to feel sorry for Hoyer for having to carry out the sell-off at the behest of Ricketts, but he knew what he was getting into when he agreed to succeed Epstein. And, according to Ricketts, Hoyer had several other job opportunities over the years and opted to stay. Hoyer will take criticism for the dismantling, but he was well aware of that coming in.

It really is no different from White Sox general manager Rick Hahn being instructed to hire Tony La Russa as manager because of La Russa’s close relationship with Sox Chairman Jerry Reinsdorf.

Ownership has its privileges, and if you don’t like taking orders from your owner, find work elsewhere.

So what can Cubs fans do to express their dissatisfaction other than write angry tweets or call The Score or ESPN 1000 to vent?

Nothing really.

Normally they could protest by not attending games, but that’s already a done deal, at least temporarily, because of the pandemic.

They could echo Bryant’s memorable remark from last September – “I don’t give a (bleep)” – but that would be disingenuous. Being a fan means always giving a (bleep).

They could stop watching Marquee Sports Network, but would anyone notice? The only thing on these days besides Cubs reruns and Ryan Dempster are shows about betting, surfing, bass fishing and other activities with a limited audience.

On Tuesday morning I clicked on Marquee to see if there was any discussion of the Darvish deal. Appropriately, a show called “Follow the Money” was airing. Alas, it had nothing to do with the Cubs.

It seems like eons ago, but it was only last January that Ricketts was booed at the Cubs Convention when he mentioned Marquee, which had yet to come to an agreement with Comcast, the largest local cable provider.

Ricketts appeared quite shocked.

“What do you have against the Marquee Network?” he asked the crowd.

The booing only grew louder.

“Believe me, you won’t be booing (about Marquee) in a year,” he said.

He was partially correct. Almost one year later they’re booing ownership more than the network. Fortunately for Tom and his brother Todd, who oversaw fundraising for President Donald Trump’s failed reelection campaign, the 2021 Cubs Convention has been canceled because of COVID-19, so the siblings won’t be booed in public.

Who would’ve guessed last January that their world would turn upside-down, the Cubs’ wheelbarrow would be bare, Wrigley would be fan-free, more than 100 Cubs employees would be laid off, Epstein would resign, announcer Len Kasper would bolt for the White Sox and Darvish would be dumped after a Cy Young Award-caliber season?

Oh, what a year it has been.

But hope springs eternal. There’s always next year, and at least the Cubs have a ready-made slogan for 2021:

“Follow the money.”
Paul Sullivan is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune.

Christian Harris and Will Anderson Jr., a freshman who led the Southeastern Conference with seven quarterback sacks.

First-year offensive coordinator Tom Rees, a reserve quarterback on Kelly’s 2012 Irish team that lost 42-14 to Alabama in the BCS championship game the last time the teams met, doesn’t believe Book needs to put it all on his shoulders.

“I don’t think there’s anything heroic he needs to do that’s going to single-handedly win us the game,” Rees said. “For us (it’s about) being more consistent on first and second down ... not getting behind the chains and putting ourselves in third-and-long situations.”

SMITH

From page B1

points.

Smith, Jones, Lawrence and Trask are the Heisman Trophy finalists. The trophy will be presented Jan. 5.

The AP player of the year has gone to the Heisman winner 17 of 22 times previously. The two most recent times when the AP player of the year and the Heisman went to different players involved Alabama’s Heisman winners.

In 2009, Crimson Tide running back Mark Ingram won the Heisman in one of



Carlos Osorio / AP

Detroit Pistons guard Derrick Rose (25) passes the ball next to Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) during the first half of Tuesday’s game.

4th quarter dooms Pistons

By NOAH TRISTER

Associated Press

DETROIT — Stephen Curry scored 31 points and Andrew Wiggins added 27 to lift the Golden State Warriors to a 116-106 victory over the winless Detroit Pistons on Tuesday night.

The injury-plagued Warriors have won two in a row after dropping

their first two games by a combined 65 points. The decisive stretch Tuesday came with Curry on the bench. Rookie big man James Wiseman had a dunk and Wiggins followed with a 3-pointer to cap a 12-0 run that put Golden State up 98-89 in the fourth quarter.

Jerami Grant led the Pistons with 27 points.

The Warriors are without stars Klay Thompson (right Achilles tendon) and Draymond Green (right foot), but now Detroit has injury problems of its own. Blake Griffin ended up in the concussion protocol and did not play in the second half, and rookie guard Killian Hayes left with a sprained right ankle.

The Pistons led 89-86 in the fourth before a 3-pointer by Wiggins tied it. Wiseman’s dunk that put the Warriors up by six sent several Golden State players spilling from the bench area in excitement. Curry tossed a towel in the air after Wiggins’ 3 moments later.

The Pistons, who led by as many as 12 points in the first half, were up 51-48 after two quarters. Golden State went on a 17-3 run early in the third, but Detroit stayed close well into the fourth.

Tip-ins

Warriors: Golden State improved to 9-22 in regular-season games without both Green and Thompson in the lineup since 2012-13.

Pistons: Griffin did not play in Monday night’s loss at Atlanta because of left knee issues. He finished with eight points Tuesday. Derrick Rose, who did not play either on Monday, had 15 points against the Warriors.

Up next

Warriors: Friday night they host Portland. That will be Golden State’s home opener after the Warriors opened with four games on the road.

Pistons: Friday night they host Boston. Detroit went 1-1 against the Celtics last season. Both games were on the road.

Bulls win 1st game of season

By RICH DUBROFF

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Zach LaVine scored 23 points, including nine straight in the third quarter, and Coby White added 18 to lead the Chicago Bulls to

their first victory of the season, 115-107 over the winless Washington Wizards on Tuesday night.

Chicago improved to 1-4 while Washington fell to 0-4, its worst start since beginning the 2012-13 season with 12 straight losses.

Russell Westbrook, who sat out Sunday’s game, had his third straight triple-dou-

ble with 21 points, 15 rebounds and 11 assists for Washington.

Bradley Beal scored 29 points and Davis Bertans added 20 for the Wizards, who shot just 10 for 37 (27 percent) from 3-point range. They missed 10 of 11 in the second quarter, when Chicago took the lead.

The Bulls had seven players in double figures. Otto Porter scored 16 points, Garrett Temple and Patrick Williams had 12 apiece, and Tomas Satoransky and Wendell Carter each added 10.

Tip-ins

Bulls: F Thaddeus Young, who missed the first three games of the season with an infection of his lower

left leg, said after Tuesday’s shootaround he was ready to play. However, Young sat out again. ... The Bulls avoided their first 0-4 start since 2007-08.

Wizards: Exercised the fourth-year option on G/F Troy Brown Jr. and the third-year option on F Rui Hachimura. ... Washington coach Scott Brooks said Hachimura, yet to play this season due to an eye injury, is nearing a return. He played 3-on-3 on Tuesday and could play 5-on-5 on Wednesday. ... G Garrison Mathews, a two-way player, was active for the first time this season.

Up next

The Bulls and Wizards play again in Washington on Thursday afternoon.

Masters field at 84 players heading into the final 3 months

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

C.T. Pan set a Masters record of sorts by having to wait 571 days from the time he qualified by winning the RBC Heritage until hitting his opening tee shot at Augusta National. In that respect, Daniel Berger doesn’t have it so bad.

He has to wait only about 10 months.

Berger became a talking point for a Masters in November when he reached as high as No. 13 in the world and still wasn’t eligible. That’s because Augusta National decided to set its field for an April tournament when the COVID-19 pandemic forced postponement until November.

Berger is among 84 players who already have qualified for the Masters going into 2021.

By keeping the field set, the Masters created some consistency in its field size. There were 88 players who had qualified for the Masters at this time a year ago. Augusta is well on its way to its objective of keeping the field under 100 players.

The Asia-Pacific Amateur in the fall in Australia and the Latin America Amateur scheduled for next month in Peru already have been canceled.

The only way into the Masters from now until April is to win one of the 13 PGA Tour events that offer full FedEx Cup points, or to move into the top 50 in the world ranking a week before the April 8-11 tournament. The 13 events includes the Sentry Tournament of Champions, where only three players – Andrew Landry, Nick Taylor and Richy Werenski – are not yet eligible for Augusta.

The biggest name missing from the field is Rickie Fowler, who was No. 23 when the year started and slipped to No. 53 at year’s end. Also missing out on a sure invitation was Erik van Rooyen (No. 51), Kevin Streelman (No. 52) and Robert MacIntyre, who moved up only slightly to No. 55 after closing with a 77 in the DP World Tour Championship in Dubai to drop to a tie for 23rd.

Of the players who had to rely on top 50 to earn a Masters spot at the end of the year, Matt Kuchar and Justin Rose were the only ones who played primarily on the PGA Tour. That generally is an indication of a mediocre year.

Rose had only three top 10s – one of them a runner-up finish in the Singapore Open – and dropped to No. 35 in the world after

starting the year at No. 8. Kuchar won the Singapore Open, but he didn’t register another top 10 after he tied for second at Riviera. He did team with Harris English to win the QBE Shootout. That doesn’t count.

As for Pan? After waiting so long to finally play in the Masters, he matched the low score of the final round with a 68 and tied for seventh, earning a trip back. This time, he only has to wait 144 days for that opening tee shot.

Maui preparations

Don’t get the idea that Justin Thomas has been home in Florida grinding on the range to get ready for the Sentry Tournament of Champions.

He’s not treating it like a working vacation, either.

Thomas made his debut in the winners-only field at Kapalua in 2016 and tied for 21st.

“I remember being really excited, but I didn’t take it as seriously as I should have,” Thomas said. “I was excited for a freebie, pocket money, points, not going there to win the tournament. I think my golf showed that.”

Since then, Thomas has won twice and finished third in his last four appearances at Kapalua.

SCOREBOARD

NBA

Monday’s Games
Atlanta 128, Detroit 120
Memphis 116, Brooklyn 111, OT
Utah 110, Oklahoma City 109
Denver 124, Houston 111
Portland 115, L.A. Lakers 107
Tuesday’s Games
New York 95, Cleveland 86
Boston 116, Indiana 111
Chicago 115, Washington 107
Philadelphia 100, Toronto 93
Golden State 116, Detroit 106
Milwaukee 144, Miami 97
Orlando at Oklahoma City
Denver at Sacramento
Minnesota at L.A. Clippers
New Orleans at Phoenix

Wednesday’s Games
Atlanta at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
Memphis at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Portland at L.A. Clippers, 10 p.m.

Thursday’s Games
Cleveland at Indiana, 3 p.m.
Chicago at Washington, 5 p.m.
Philadelphia at Orlando, 6:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Houston, 7 p.m.
New York at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Utah, 9 p.m.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

2020-21 Bowl Glance
Wednesday, Dec. 30
DUKE’S MAYO BOWL
Charlotte, N.C.
Wisconsin vs. Wake Forest, Noon (ESPN)
COTTON BOWL CLASSIC
Arlington, Texas
No. 8 Oklahoma vs. No. 10 Florida, 7:15 p.m. (ESPN)

Thursday, Dec. 31
ARMED FORCES BOWL
Fort Worth, Texas
No. 22 Tulsa vs. Mississippi St., Noon (ESPN)
ARIZONA BOWL
Tucson, Ariz.
No. 19 San Jose St. vs. Ball State., 2 p.m. (CBSSN)

LIBERTY BOWL
Memphis, Tenn.
West Virginia vs. Army, 4 p.m. (ESPN)
TEXAS BOWL
Houston
TCU vs. Arkansas, canceled

Friday, Jan. 1
PEACH BOWL
Atlanta
No. 6 Cincinnati vs. No. 11 Georgia, Noon (ESPN)

CITRUS BOWL
Orlando, Fla.
No. 15 Northwestern vs. Auburn, 1 p.m. (ABC)

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF SEMIFINAL
ROSE BOWL
Arlington, Texas
No. 1 Alabama vs. No. 4 Notre Dame, 4 p.m. (ESPN)

SUGAR BOWL
New Orleans
No. 2 Clemson vs. No. 3 Ohio St., 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Jan 2
GATOR BOWL
Jacksonville, Fla.
No. 24 NC State vs. Kentucky, Noon (ESPN)
OUTBACK BOWL
Tampa, Fla.
No. 7 Indiana vs. Mississippi, 12:30 p.m. (ABC)

FIESTA BOWL
Glendale, Ariz.
No. 12 Iowa State vs. No. 25 Oregon, 4 p.m. (ESPN)

ORANGE BOWL
Miami Gardens, Fla.
No. 5 Texas A&M vs. No. 14 North Carolina, 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Jan. 11
COLLEGE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
Miami Gardens, Fla.
Rose Bowl winner vs. Sugar Bowl winner, 8 p.m. (ESPN)

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
yx-Buffalo	12	3	0	.800	445	349
Miami	10	5	0	.667	378	282
New England	6	9	0	.400	298	339
N.Y. Jets	2	13	0	.133	229	429
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	10	5	0	.667	423	348
Tennessee	10	5	0	.667	450	401
Houston	4	11	0	.267	346	423
Jacksonville	1	14	0	.067	292	464
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
yx-Pittsburgh	12	3	0	.800	394	288
Baltimore	10	5	0	.667	430	300
Cleveland	10	5	0	.667	384	397
Cincinnati	4	10	1	.300	308	386
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
zyx-Kansas City	14	1	0	.933	452	324
Las Vegas	7	8	0	.467	402	447
L.A. Chargers	6	9	0	.400	346	405
Denver	5	10	0	.333	292	414

NATIONAL CONFERENCE											
East											
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA					
Dallas	6	9	0	.400	376	450					
Washington	6	9	0	.400	315	315					
N.Y. Giants	5	10	0	.333	257	338					
Philadelphia	4	10	1	.300	320	398					

South											
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA					
yx-New Orleans	11	4	0	.733	449	330					
x-Tampa Bay	10	5	0	.667	448	328					
Carolina	5	10	0	.333	343	369					
Atlanta	4	11	0	.267	369	370					

North											
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA					
yx-Green Bay	12	3	0	.800	474	353					
Chicago	8	7	0	.533	356	333					
Minnesota	6	9	0	.400	393	440					
Detroit	5	10	0	.333	342	482					

Friday's Game
New Orleans 52, Minnesota 33

Saturday's Games
Tampa Bay 47, Detroit 7
San Francisco 20, Arizona 12
Miami 26, Las Vegas 25

PRIME TIME TV

WEDNESDAY EVENING DEC. 30							
	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC (7)(13)(41)(57)	Wheel of Fortune	The Gold-bergs	Housewife	The Con-ners	The Con-ners	The Con-ners	The Con-ners
CBS (2)(3)(22)	Ent. Tonight	Young Sheldon	Mom	SEAL Team "Draw-down"		S.W.A.T. "Bad Cop"	
NBC (5)(8)(16)	Ac. Holly-wood	Chicago Med	(DVS)	Chicago Fire "That Kind of Heat"		Chicago P.D. Moore pressures Voight.	
FOX (17)(22)(28)(32)	Modern Family	The Masked Dancer	(DVS)	9-1-1 The 118 fights an apartment blaze.		Fox 17 News at 10:00PM (N)	
PBS (34)	Outdoor Elements	Nature Wolves and buffalo in Canada.		NOVA "The Impossible Flight" Two pilots fly a solar-powered airplane.			
CW (25)	Big Bang Theory	Heroes on the Front Line (N)		Dogs of the Year		News	Seinfeld
MNT (50)	Family Feud	Dateline "A Crack in Everything"		Dateline "The Mystery Man"		Dateline "Without a Trace"	
WCIU (26)	Mike & Molly	Heroes on the Front Line (N)		Dogs of the Year		King of Queens	King of Queens
WHME (46)	:00 Heart-land	Heartland "Coming Home"		Highway to Heaven "One Winged Angel"		Nightly News	
WGN (9)	News	black-ish	black-ish	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	WGN News at Nine (N) (L)	
A&E	Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam	:01 Court Cam	:32 Court Cam
AMC	5:30 ★ ★ ★ ★ The Godfather ('72, Drama) Marlon Brando, Al Pacino.				★ ★ ★ ★ The Godfather, Part II ('74) Al Pacino.		
Animal	North-	North Woods Law: Uncuffed (N)			North Woods Law		
BET	6:35 ★ Rush Hour 3 ('07)	Payne		As. Living	Payne	As. Living	
Big Ten	College Basketball	College Basketball Penn State at Indiana.				B1G Live	
Bravo	House-wives/OC	Housewives/OC		Housewives/OC		Real Housewives of Salt Lake City	
Cartoon	The	Burgers	Burgers	American	American	Rick	Rick
Cinemax	H'mooners	★ ★ ★ ★ Bowfinger ('99, Comedy) Steve Martin.			:39 ★ ★ Shaft ('19, Action) Samuel L. Jackson.		
CMT	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom
CNBC	S. Smith	Shark Tank		Shark Tank			
CNN	OutFront	Anderson Cooper		CNN Tonight		CNN Tonight	
Comedy	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	:04 South Park	
Discovery	Undercov-er Bil	Undercover Billion-naire: Building An Em		Undercover Billion-naire: Building An Em		Undercover Billion-naire: Building An Em	
Disney	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Big City	Big City
DIY	Holmes	Holmes & Holmes		Holmes & Holmes		Holmes & Holmes	
E!	:00 ★ ★ ★ Speed ('94, Action)	★ ★ ★ Speed ('94)					
ESPN	Studio	:10 Goodyear Cotton Bowl Florida vs Oklahoma. (N) (L)					
ESPN2	College Basketball				College Basketball Florida at Vanderbilt. (N)		
ESPNc	Football	College Football From Nov. 18, 2000.			College Football		
Food	Grocery	Guy's Games		Guy's Games		Beat Play	Beat Play
Fox News	The Story	Tucker Carlson		Hannity (N)		The Ingraham Angle	
Fox Sports	Strong	NFL Football Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Detroit Lions.					MSHOF
Freefrm	:00 ★ ★ ★ ★ Shrek ('01) Voices of Mike Myers.				★ ★ Rio 2 ('14, Children's) Voices of Anne Hathaway, Jesse Eisenberg.		
FX	5:30 ★ ★ ★ ★ Deadpool	★ ★ ★ Deadpool 2 ('18) Ryan Reynolds. Deadpool joins forces with a team of mutants to fight Cable.					X-Men: Apoc
Golf	:00 Golf	Payne's Valley Cup.					
Hallmark	Christmas-Wrap	★ Five Star Christmas ('20) Bethany Joy Lenz, Victor Webster, Robert Wisden.			★ Christmas Comes Twice ('20)		
HBO	His Dark Materials	His Dark Materials "Asahætr"		8:50 ★ Dolittle ('20, Children's) Robert Downey Jr.		REAL Sports	
History	Forged	Forged in Fire		Forged in Fire (N)		:03 Forged in Fire	
HGTV	Home	House	House	Home Town		Hunters	Hunt Intl
Learning	My 600-	My 600-Lb. Life "Samantha's Story"					:02 1000-Lb. Sisters
Lifetime	Rizzoli & Isles	Married at First Sight The experts evaluate hopeful singles. (N)					:03 Marrying Millions (N)
MSNBC	ReidOut	All In With		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word	
MTV	:35 ★ ★ Step Brothers ('08) Will Ferrell.					Ridic.	Ridic.
NBCSCH	Immortals	Chicago Blackhawks Classics					Notre Dame Echoes
NFL	NFL Total	NFL Football Teams TBA. (Taped)					
Nick	Astro	Sponge.	Sponge.	Sheldon	Sheldon	Friends	Friends
NGEO	Trafficked	Trafficked-van Zeller		Trafficked-van Zeller		Narco Wars (N)	
Oxygen	:00 Snapped	Snapped (N)		Snapped "Giselle Esteban"		Snapped "Ghazal Mansury"	
Parmt	★ ★ The A-Team ('10) Liam Neeson, Bradley Cooper.						Repla
Showtime	Another 48 HRS.	:15 ★ ★ Major League ('89, Comedy) Tom Berenger, Charlie Sheen.		(89, Comedy) Tom Berenger, Charlie Sheen.		:05 ★ ★ Passenger 57 ('92)	
Starz	:12 ★ ★ Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian				★ ★ Think Like a Man ('12) Michael Ealy, Jerry Ferrara, Meagan Good.		
STZENC	:25 ★ ★ Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer ('07)				★ ★ Van Helsing ('04, Fantasy) Hugh Jackman, Kate Beckinsale.		
SyFy	6:00 ★ ★ The Day After Tomorrow	★ ★ San Andreas ('15, Action) Dwayne Johnson. A rescue pilot must save his family after an earthquake.					
TBS	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Full Frontal
TCM	6:15 Flipper	★ ★ ★ The Birds ('63, Suspense) Rod Taylor, Tippi Hedren.			:15 ★ ★ ★ ★ Psycho ('60)		
TMC	Your Sister's	★ ★ Hot Summer Nights ('17, Suspense) Timothee Chalamet, Alex Roe.					
TNT	Account	All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite (N)					
Travel	UFOs:	The UFO Phenomenon (N)				True Paranormal	
TV Land	Andy G.	Raymond	Everybody Raymond		Raymond	Raymond	Raymond
USA	:00 NCIS	WWE NXT NXT New Year's Evil approaches. (N) (L)					:08 ★ ★ Fast & Furious ('09)
VH1	Martin	★ ★ Save the Last Dance ('01) Julia Stiles.					Drumline
WGN-A	Last Man Standing	NewsNation (N) (L)		NewsNation (N) (L)		NewsNation (N) (L)	

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fishhook part
- 5 Soak in the tub
- 10 Exceptionally courageous
- 12 Less trusting
- 13 Grads
- 14 Ms. Lansbury
- 15 "Frozen" villain
- 16 Hole-making tool
- 18 Law (abbr.)
- 19 Engine covers
- 21 Be evasive
- 25 Like a sheep
- 29 Pungent veggie
- 30 Dove or pigeon
- 32 Prime-time hour
- 33 Chocolate bean
- 34 Flavorful seed
- 37 Atlanta university

- DOWN**
- 1 Lugosi of "Dracula"
- 2 Make — for it
- 3 CD —
- 4 Place for laundry
- 5 Outlaw
- 6 Ship of myth
- 7 Stratrum
- 8 Believed
- 9 Epoch
- 10 Nasty laugh
- 11 Hi or bye
- 12 Handford's hidden hiker

Answer to Previous Puzzle

G	I	L	D	B	U	D	S	O	B
Y	I	P	E	A	S	U	A	M	A
M	I	S	C	H	I	E	F	L	A
O	A	T	F	A	T	H	E	R	
E	M	M	Y	S	V	E	G	A	D
L	A	O	H	A	T	I	E	D	
L	Y	R	E	D	E	B	E	T	A
E	O	N	S	D	N	A	W	A	F
A	S	K	A	N	A	M	A	S	O
A	T	H	A	N	D	L	I	B	
H	E	A	L	U	N	P	R	O	V
S	A	K	I	M	A	G	D	A	R
M	I	T	S	E	A	E	T	R	E

17 Cry of amazement

19 Redheads' dyes

20 World Cup sport

21 Two, in Oaxaca

22 Small bills

23 Sharp decline

24 Takes one's turn

26 Good dirt

27 Crazy, to Pedro

28 Decade part

31 Designer Rachel

35 Taj —

36 NASA excursion

39 Comic strip dog

40 Fork feature

41 Hoax

42 Well mech-anism

44 Farm building

45 Aswan Dam site

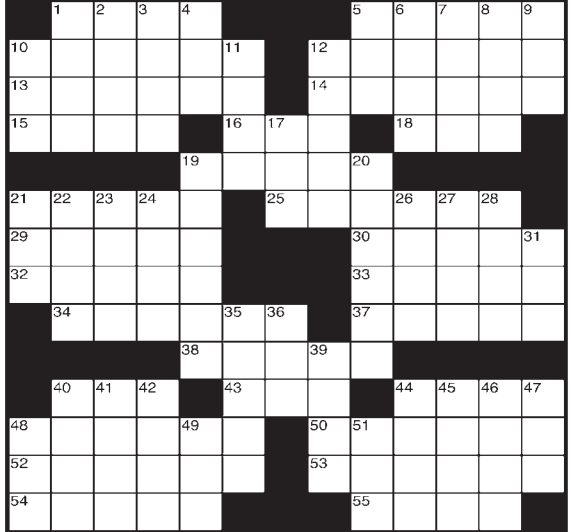
46 Egyptian solar deity

47 Indy area

48 Rover's doc

49 Badminton need

51 Winning serve



JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SUREE

CLOBK

CTAANV

ACOLAN

HIS

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app - Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

©2020 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.

Yesterday's Jumbles: UTTER SPICY COSTLY SKETCH Answer: The locksmith considered customer satisfaction the — KEY TO SUCCESS

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

BRIDGE

Michael J. Mosley and Nicholas Rossiter, in "The Human Face," wrote, "Somebody once said that beauty is the passport to success, but it's not a passport. It's a visa, and it expires."

That's a tad depressing, but true. In bridge, if you need an entry to, say, the dummy but do not have one, sometimes you can give an opponent a visa to that hand and gain entry.

In today's deal, first, what should South rebid?

That North hand is definitely worth an opening bid, but he felt uncomfortable on round two, forced to rebid in his five-card suit at the three-level.

It looks obvious for South to rebid three hearts, but what happens

KAKURO

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

12/30

How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

13/30 © 2020 UFS, Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

7	2	1	9	8	3	4	5	6
9	6	3	7	4	5	8	2	1
4	8	5	6	2	1	3	9	7
3	9	6	8	1	2	7	4	5
1	5	7	3	9	4	2	6	8
2	4	8	5	6	7	1	3	9
8	7	4	2	5	6	9	1	3
6	3	2	1	7	9	5	8	4
5	1	9	4	3	8	6	7	2

Multi-generational households must remain vigilant

DEAR DOCTOR: Our family – ages 66, 59, 27 and 22 – lives in one household. We've been working from home and keeping socially distant since the start of the pandemic. Now the younger members wish to resume outside employment. How do we safely manage their return to work?

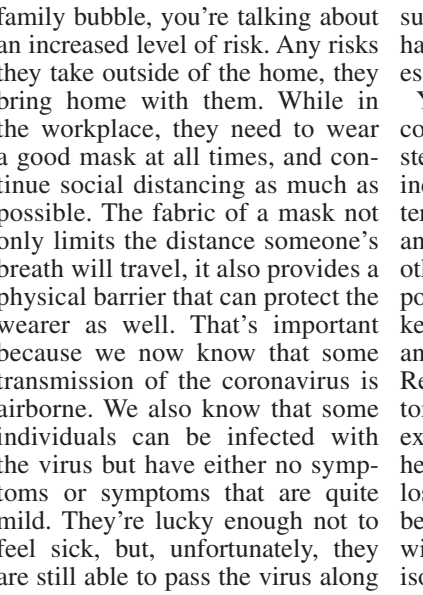
DEAR READER: The challenge in multi-generational households like yours is keeping the older members safe. The answer lies in the basic precautions we've learned to take during this pandemic, along with an added layer of vigilance and awareness.

We may sound like a broken record by now, but that means wear a mask, maintain distance from people outside of your household and be consistent about washing your hands. We tell our patients to assume that each time they leave their homes, they will encounter someone infected with the coronavirus, and to behave accordingly. Considering the spiking infections across the nation at this time, that's not an exaggeration.

When it comes to the younger people spending time outside the

family bubble, you're talking about an increased level of risk. Any risks they take outside of the home, they bring home with them. While in the workplace, they need to wear a good mask at all times, and continue social distancing as much as possible. The fabric of a mask not only limits the distance someone's breath will travel, it also provides a physical barrier that can protect the wearer as well. That's important because we now know that some transmission of the coronavirus is airborne. We also know that some individuals can be infected with the virus but have either no symptoms or symptoms that are quite mild. They're lucky enough not to feel sick, but, unfortunately, they are still able to pass the virus along to other people, who may become quite ill.

Physical distancing remains important. Studies have made a connection between viral load, which is the concentration of virus someone is exposed to, and the severity of subsequent infection. The further away you stand from someone, the less their exhaled breath can reach you. When combined with a mask, social distancing can measurably reduce your risk of coming into contact with the virus. And, because viral particles can also be carried via droplets that land and persist on



Elizabeth Ko & Eve Glazier
Ask the Doctors

Depressed fiancée calls off the wedding

Carolyn Hax is away. The following first appeared Aug. 27, 2006.

DEAR CAROLYN: My fiancée recently postponed our wedding indefinitely. We haven't been fighting, but have grown apart.

We both work demanding jobs that usually leave us so exhausted that we come home, eat, watch TV and go to sleep. Our finances are such that we live week-to-week and I think that puts more of a strain on her than she will admit.

She is very clearly depressed. It's been nine months since she said she needed help, but she just won't take the step to get it. Blaming her job, exhaustion, whatever.

I love her, I want to support her. But she is having a profound effect on my own state of mind. It frustrates, depresses and sometimes angers me. We have talked about it several times, she tells me, "On Wednesday I'll call and set an appointment," and then never does.

What can I do? – Maryland

DEAR CAROLYN: You haven't been fighting or growing apart. You're broke, tired and engaged to untreated depression.

Call and make an appointment for her. Make it for a time you can leave your demanding job to hold her hand, if that's what she'd like you to do.

There is, of course, a fine line between supporting a partner and dominating her; between showing respect for an illness and disrespect for a fellow adult; between supporting a partner and taking on a dependent.

But in this case, taking charge doesn't cross those lines for three specific reasons: You are close to her; she has identified herself as depressed; and a symptom of depression is an inability to take action. Make the call, hope it's the nudge she needs.

And, then, don't expect miracles. If she is in fact diagnosed with depression, she's fighting with and growing apart from herself. Reversing that process often involves trial and error. Treatments vary, as do people's responses to them – assuming she even agrees to go for help, which is far from a guarantee.

Also not guaranteed is that lifting her gloom will close the distance between you. For one, you lead apparently grueling lives. That might have to change for your relationship to work. And, there could be relationship prob-

lems overtaken by, masked by, or even responsible for the depression, problems you'd still need to face when she's better.

It's like when your leg falls asleep: It can really hurt when the blood rushes in, but it's still better than being numb.

DEAR CAROLYN: I'm 29, he's 24. We have a wonderful friendship, amazing laughs, similar life goals. But it all ends when he socializes by going to keg parties [Note: 2006, no COVID] and I'm saving to buy a house soon.

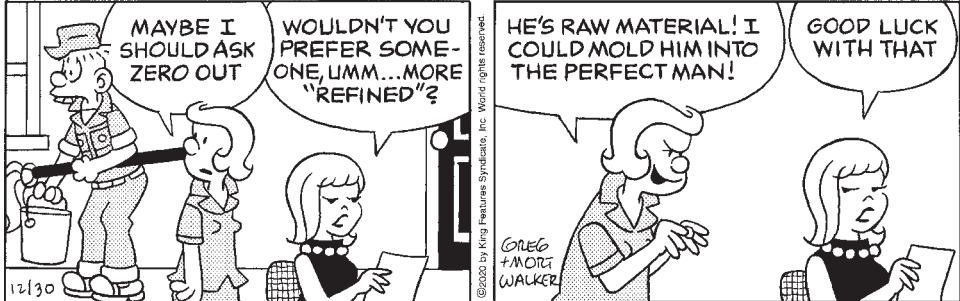
He thinks I make too big a deal of it, but I miss having a kindred spirit in the same phase of life. Or will this even out at some point? – D.C.

DEAR D.C.: It could even out. It could also end when he throws a house-trashing kegger while you're away. It could go on happily ever after with you working the keg-erator in the wet bar of your suburban house.

The one way to guarantee it won't end well is to substitute judging, expecting, hoping or assuming for actually seeing. Open your mind, see him, choose.

Email Carolyn Hax at tellme@washpost.com, follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/carolyn.hax or chat with her online at noon each Friday at www.washingtonpost.com.

BEETLE BAILEY



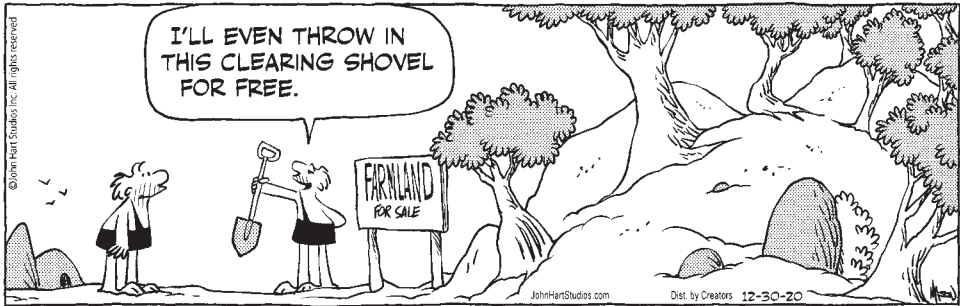
BLONDIE



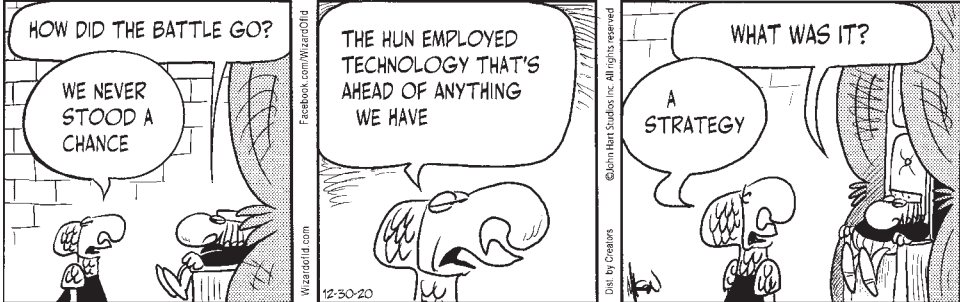
HI & LOIS



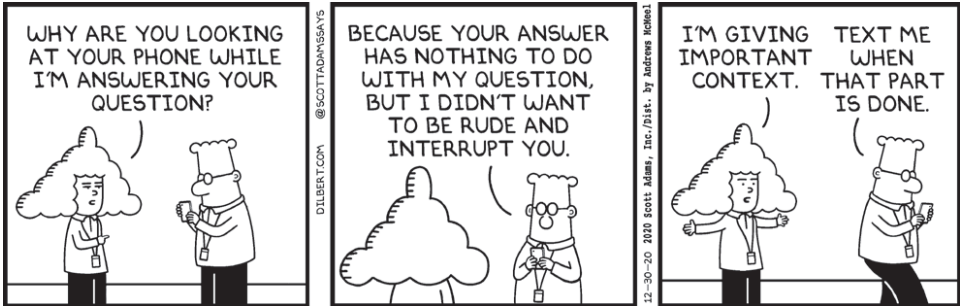
BC



WIZARD OF ID



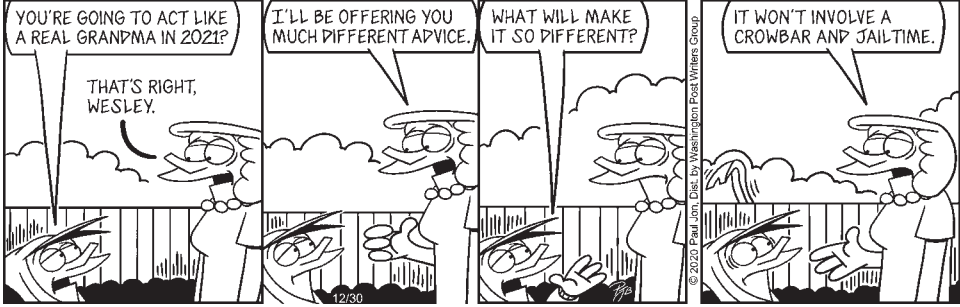
DILBERT



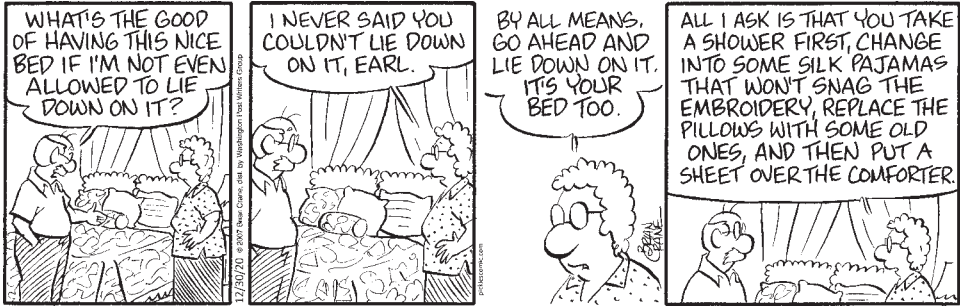
GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES

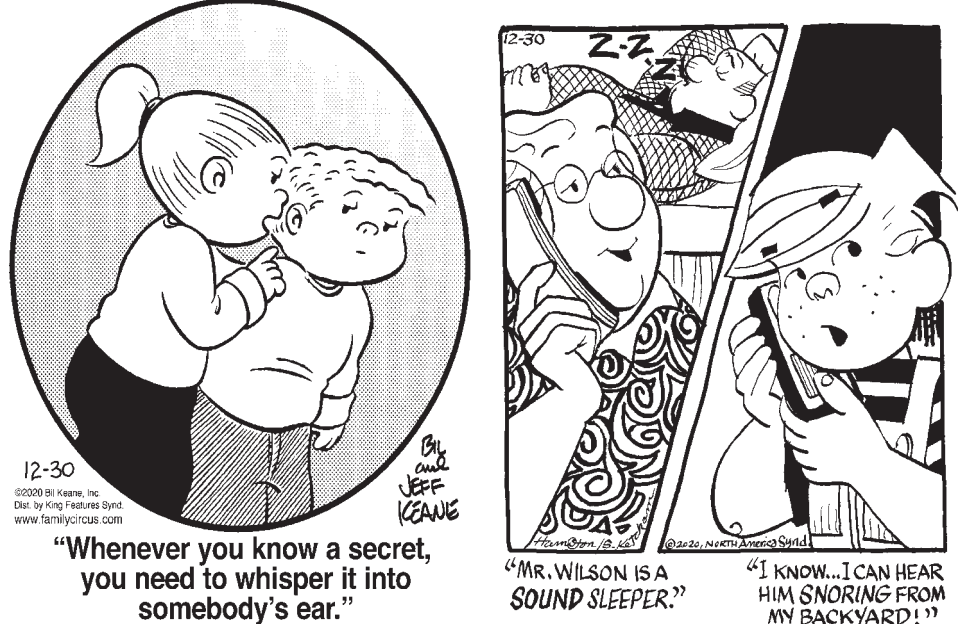


FAMILY CIRCUS

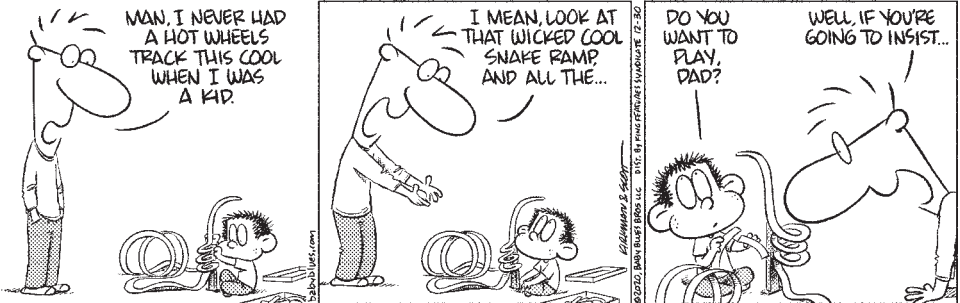
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

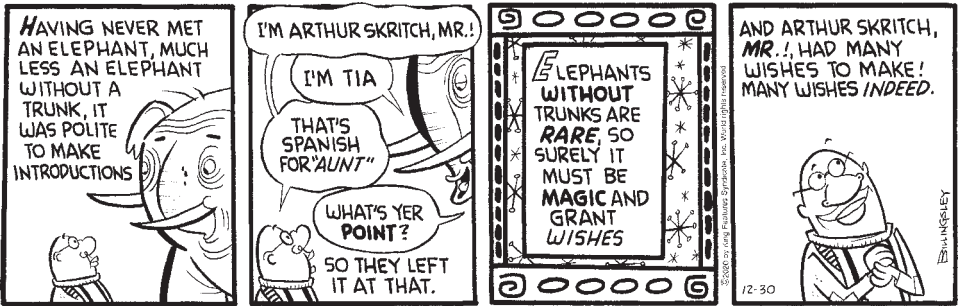
DENNIS THE MENACE



BABY BLUES



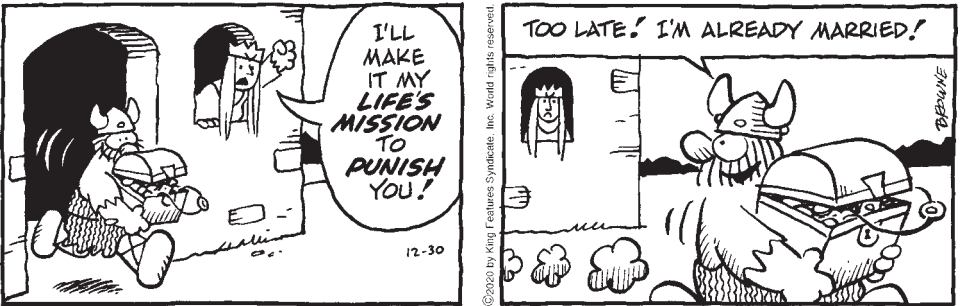
CURTIS



ZITS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



MUTTS



SALLY FORTH



Be a history explorer

The entire archive of The Herald-Palladium and its forerunner newspapers, dating back more than 150 years, is now available online in a text-searchable format

The Herald-Palladium

Newspapers.com by ancestry

Only \$4.95 for 1 month's access or \$19.95 for 6 months' access.



Use the archive to do serious genealogical research or simply to have fun reading about your ancestors. Find old clippings about your birth or high school graduation. Learn what happened in the world on the day you were born.

- It's easy to get started:
- Go to www.TheHP.com
- Click on the "Archives" tab in the top menu, and choose "Search Newspapers.com"
- Click on the "Get Archive Access" link to sign up

Look for handy tutorials to help you learn how to use the site effectively

The Herald-Palladium

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Desk: 1-855-317-4292
Hours: Monday - Friday 8am-4pm EST
Saturday & Sunday 8am-11am EST



REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

UNFURNISHED APARTMENTS

Trail Creek, IN
2 Bedroom apartment, very nice & clean, central air, with nice yard, very quiet neighborhood, \$600 a month plus deposit, water and sewer included, renters responsible for Nipsco, No Pets first month plus deposit due at signing.
(219) 879-3700

HOMES FOR RENT

Coloma, MI
2 Bedroom
750 per month plus security call for details- Jim
269-208-1364

Coloma, MI
Small two bedroom
650 per month plus security call for details- Jim
269-208-1364

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LEGALS

LEGALS

Abandoned Vehicle Auction
on January 6 2021 @1:00 pm
at Zielke Towing 130

2012 Ford Focus
3FAHP0GA1CR345576

2001 Toyota PU
5TEHN72N1Z740602

Social distancing and face mask enforced

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EMPLOYMENT

EDUCATION/TEACHING

Special Education Paraprofessional

River Valley School District
Employment info at: www.rivervalleyschools.org
Deadline: Until filled

GENERAL HELP

Food Service Delivery Driver
Join our crew! The area's leading fresh produce food service distributor has both CDL and non-CDL positions available. Deliver to local restaurants and institutions. Must have a good driving record, and be able to lift product. Home every night. Good benefits. Apply at Shelton's Farm Market, 1832 S 11th Street, Niles MI.

FINANCIAL

GARAGE /ESTATE SALES

MERCHANDISE

BUILDING MATERIALS

LaPorte, IN
High heat bills For Sale
Bubble Wrap Foil Insulation
100 ft Rolls
4' 5' 6' wide
Insulate your homes, pole barns, dog houses, etc.
Half price, will keep 97% of heat in home.
cheap!!
219-324-0444

WANTED TO RENT/BUY/TRADE

Benton Harbor, MI
3 Pillars Music is looking to buy record albums from 1970s to present, older guitars and comic books.
Please contact Tom at 269-313-7001 or 3pillarsmusic@gmail.com

WANTED TO RENT/BUY/TRADE

BUYING JUNK CARS & TRUCKS
Small Cars \$200
Medium Cars \$300
Large Vehicles \$350
Call Larry at (269)326-0510
Or Scott at (269)208-9208

PETS

FARM

TRANSPORTATION

People DO Read Small Ads. You Did!

Responding to employment ads that contain a Herald-Palladium box #

No telephone calls please! We will not reveal the name of the box holder.
(A) Reply with your sealed letter Addressed as follows:

Box (# that appears in ad)
c/o the Herald-Palladium
P.O. Box 128
St. Joseph, MI
49085-0128

If you wish to reply to a box number and NOT have your letter sent to certain firms, then: B) attach a note listing which firms are NOT to receive your letter; and (C) send every thing in ANOTHER E N V E L O P E addressed as follows:

The Herald-Palladium
Classified Department
P.O. Box 128
St. Joseph, MI
49085-0128

If the advertiser is among the names you don't want to contact, we will destroy your sealed letter.

E-Mail Responses
You may also reply to ads with Herald-Palladium box numbers by e-mail. Do not attach your resume rather type it or copy & paste it directly into your e-mail program. Send your e-mail to: jobs@heraldpalladium.com

If you wish to reply to a box number and NOT have your letter sent to certain firms, then begin your e-mail with any company(s) where you do not wish to apply. Then include the Herald-Palladium box address as shown above.

Employment Advertisers Who Wish to Remain Anonymous

To protect our readers, Herald-Palladium policy requires that all companies list their names when placing ads in our publication. Employment advertisers who wish to remain anonymous must rent Herald-Palladium boxes so that we can insure our readers that they are not responding to their current employers or any other company to which they do not wish to apply.

Box Charges
Boxes are reserved for 30 days after last day of ad publication. The charge is: \$10. per box- you pick-up responses. \$15. per box - We fax all responses to you on a daily basis. \$25. per box- We mail responses to you once per week.

When readers respond to your ad via e-mail, we will forward them to you immediately if you provide us with an e-mail address or we will print and handle them in the manner that you request.

The Herald-Palladium

HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30

Gather everything you've experienced and put a new twist on how you use the knowledge you've gained to enrich your life. Embrace change with open arms, renewed enthusiasm and without carrying any grudges that might deter you from recognizing your full potential. Rejoice in what you have and know, and continue your life journey with renewed optimism.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Engage in changes that will encourage you to look great and to perform flawlessly. Refuse to let the past bring you down. Stay focused and strive for perfection.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)

Make decisions based on what's best for you. Step into the lime-light, voice your opinion and follow through with what makes you happy.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)

Check and see who is excited about your plans and eager to pitch in and help. Planning a virtual gathering will lead to interesting conversations and possibilities.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Concentrate on what's important to you, and nurture meaningful relationships. Honesty regarding joint finances and ventures will help bring you closer to your goal.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You'll learn something valuable if you observe what others are experiencing. Make a change that will help you avoid getting caught in an expensive tax implication. Leave nothing to chance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

When in doubt, ask questions and make adjustments. A last-minute change someone makes will turn into a learning experience for you. Have alternatives ready.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Listen to an offer and mull over what's in it for you. Dissatisfaction breeds contempt, so make your demands clear. Honesty and innovation will help you persuade.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Plan how you will bring in the new year with health in mind. Taking a risk will put you in jeopardy. Keep your plans simple, doable and only for those within your immediate circle.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Information you discover will give you a better idea of what's possible. Listen to a passionate plea, but don't buy into something that may put you or someone you love in jeopardy. Abide by the rules.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Do your part to ensure everything runs smoothly. Changes at home or work will set off emotions. Spend more time on self-improvement, not trying to change others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Inside information regarding a trend that can help you get ahead will come your way. Don't invest in someone else. Take the initiative to do your own thing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

Refuse to let anyone disrupt your plans or talk you into something that isn't worthwhile. Put more energy into fitness, nutrition and preparing for endeavors.

J
O
B
S

We Got

'Em Right

Here In Our

Classifieds!

The Herald-Palladium

The Herald Palladium is looking for a reliable person to drive a company owned, 16 foot truck, to deliver newspapers from our local print site to The Grand Haven Tribune in Grand Haven, MI. The position is not responsible for the delivery of individual newspapers to subscribers. Drops are made at two post office locations, as well as, the local newspaper office. Experience operating an electric lift is desired.

This is a third shift position, approximately 3-7am, Tuesday-Saturday. Must have valid driver's license and have a clean MVR.

Job Type: Part-time

To Apply: Contact Bruce
btheisen@heraldpalladium.com
269-429-2400 ext. 553

ANNOUNCEMENT
Mccoy Brother's Jewelers will resume business when the vaccine arrives and is administered to the public at large. Hang in there, folks. Mccoy Brother's will reopen at that time, for the final run, of about one year.

BUSINESS & SERVICE GUIDE

Complete Tree Service - Senior & Veteran Discounts -

Willie Nearn Jr.

and Associates

269-532-8156

Making things happen by getting things done

FREE QUOTES & TREE INSPECTIONS

Happy Holidays

In order to allow our employees time with their families for the New Year's holiday, our call center will be closing at noon on New Year's Eve, December 31. We will be closed on New Year's Day. We will reopen at 9am on January 4th, 2021.

The following deadlines for placing a Classified Liner is as follows:
To publish on Saturday, January 2nd the deadline is 11am on Thursday, December 31st, 2020.

Grow your business!

Call Angelique at 855-317-4292

Ex. 701, to find out how

CARPENTRY

Richter's Carpentry

Specializing in basement remodeling, drywall, drop ceilings, doors & trim. No job too small. 20+ years in Business.

944-0236

ROOFING

Demler Roofing

Over 40 Years Experience

Baroda, MI

269-422-2542

Licensed & Insured

Shingles are our Specialty

HOME IMPROVEMENT & REPAIR

Larry Morrow

Residential Builder

• Painting
• Kitchens
• Baths
• Drywall
• Roofing
• Decks
• Windows
• Doors
• Fences
• Electrical
• Plumbing
• Flooring
• Siding
• Basements
• Tub Refinishing

269-325-2242

Licensed & Insured

MASONRY

Michigan Concrete Masonry

Driveways, all concrete, brick, block, stone & chimneys.

All repairs, big or small

(We repair all leaky basements)

(269)993-8645

DO YOU RUN YOUR OWN BUSINESS?

Get More Exposure!

ADVERTISE WITH US TODAY!

hpFOOD & HEALTH

BREAKFASTS AND BANQUETS

Burgers: American Legion Post 518, 4789 Weechik Road, New Troy, will have a hamburger night from 5-8 p.m. today. Cost is \$5 for a burger, fries and salad. Cost is \$6.50 for a burger, onion rings and salad. All orders are carryout. Order upon arrival, or call ahead at 426-3542.

Breakfasts and Banquets appears on Wednesdays. The deadline is the preceding Wednesday at noon. Civic groups sponsoring fundraising meals, classes or other food-related events should send information in writing to: Focus, The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085; or email focus@TheHP.com.



BLOOD DRIVES

- American Red Cross**
- 11 a.m.-2:45 p.m. Thursday, Peace Lutheran Church, 06321 Blue Star Memorial Highway, South Haven.
 - 11 a.m.-4:45 p.m. Monday, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 2673 W. John Beers Road, Stevensville.
 - 12:30-5:15 p.m. Tuesday, Simpson United Methodist Church, 507 Joy St., Bangor.
 - 11 a.m.-4:45 p.m. Jan 12, Buchanan Seventh-day Adventist Church, 3115 Niles Buchanan Road.
 - Noon-5:45 p.m. Jan. 12, Moose Lodge 697, 1025 Wells St., South Haven.
 - 11 a.m.-4:45 p.m. Jan. 13, Silver Beach Center, 333 Broad St., St. Joseph.
- Versiti Blood Center of Michigan**
- Noon-7 p.m. today, Versiti Blood Center of Michigan, 2710 Cleveland Ave., St. Joseph.
 - 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Versiti Blood Center of Michigan, 2710 Cleveland Ave., St. Joseph.
 - 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Versiti Blood Center of Michigan, 2710 Cleveland Ave., St. Joseph.
 - Noon-7 p.m. Jan. 6, Versiti Blood Center of Michigan, 2710 Cleveland Ave., St. Joseph.
 - 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Jan. 9, Versiti Blood Center of Michigan, 2710 Cleveland Ave., St. Joseph.
 - 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Jan. 10, Versiti Blood Center of Michigan, 2710 Cleveland Ave., St. Joseph.
 - Noon-7 p.m. Jan. 13, Versiti Blood Center of Michigan, 2710 Cleveland Ave., St. Joseph.
- Donors must be at least 17 years old and weigh at least 110 pounds.*

Three recipes for that homemade quark

I hadn't heard of quarks since high school physics (not one of my better times) until I talked to Mari Krebs, whose family started Suisse Chalet Bakery.

It turns out there are quarks, those subatomic particles that carry a fractional electric charge, and

quark, a type of creamy, mild cheese common in Germany and Switzerland.

"In Europe, they serve it plain with vanilla sugar, or you can add fruit," she says, noting vanilla sugar is just sugar infused with vanilla.

Krebs makes her own quark, which she uses for pastries like Swedish Vanilla Squares (with and without berries), German cheese-cake and German-style stollen. Quark is available sometimes at Aldi, and you can buy it through Amazon, though only a few companies make it in the U.S.

"Kesella is a Swedish brand name for kvarg (quark), produced by a company called Arla Foods," Krebs says.

Born in Germany – her father was German, her mother Swiss-French – Krebs brings a European sensibility to her cooking. She started baking when she was 13, and began selling her baked goods at 16.

There's a simple way to make quark, she says. You cook buttermilk in an Instant Pot on the yogurt setting, and then strain it with a cheesecloth when it's done.

"When you mix quark in a dough, like stollen, it makes for a moist dough," says Krebs, who was in the process of making about 30 stollen.

On the quark trail, I also talked to Gerhild Fulson, who was born in Germany and is a cookbook author, blogger and food consultant. She uses the name Oma, German for grandmother, and adapts German dishes for American ingredients on her website, Just Like Oma.

"Quark is classified as a fresh cheese," says Fulson, who shared a recipe for her Sour Cherry Cake. "It's delicious and required in so many German recipes."

If you don't have an Instant Pot, she says it's still easy to make quark at home with your oven.

Just pour 1 quart buttermilk into a large casserole with a lid. Let it sit in the oven overnight (at least 8 hours) at the lowest temperature possible (no more than 150 degrees). Line a large sieve or colander with a clean cloth. Pour the buttermilk into it and let it sit to drain in the fridge for about 6 hours.

Janet Fletcher, who blogs about food, cheese, wine and more, is the author of numerous cookbooks,



Oma's Sour Cherry Cake (above) and German Stollen (below) are good uses of quark.



including "Wine Country Table" and the soon-to-be-released "Gather: Casual Cooking From Wine Country Gardens."

She shared a quark recipe, too. Hers is different as it's for a savory, rather than sweet, dish that she was served at the Daily Driver, a deli in San Francisco.

"I think it's a great product to explore if you like yogurt," she says. "It's tart and tangy and nice to have with whole-grain toast, or with salt and pepper and radishes."

For those who don't have access to quark, and don't want to make it themselves, substitutes like yogurt, cream cheese and ricotta cheese can be used.

Oma's Sour Cherry Cake

- 2/3 cup butter
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- Pinch salt
- 3 large eggs
- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup cornstarch
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 (28-ounce) jar sour cherries, drained

For the topping:

- 2 large eggs
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1 cup quark (or Greek yogurt)
- Whipped cream (for serving)

Grease and flour a 10-inch springform pan. Heat an

oven to 350 degrees.

Beat together the first 4 ingredients until creamy. Mix in the eggs.

Stir together the flour, cornstarch and baking powder. Add the dry ingredients to the wet, and mix well. This will be a thick dough.

Spread the dough into the prepared pan, using a wet spoon to smooth the dough. Cover with the cherries, and bake for 35 minutes.

With about 5 minutes to go, whip the eggs, sugar and yogurt/quark together until creamy.

Spread over the hot cake, and continue baking for another 25 minutes.

Cool, then serve topped with a dollop of whipped cream.

Oma's Cheesecake

For the crust:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

For the filling:

- 2 pounds quark, or ricotta
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup whipping cream
- 2/3 cup sugar
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 4 large eggs

Using a mixer, beat togeth-

What to do with your homemade quark

- Mix a bit of honey into it, and serve it with your muesli or cereal.
- Top a baked potato with it, sprinkle chives over it and a bit of flax oil.
- Use it instead of yogurt or sour cream in your salads, such as cucumber salad.
- Mix together with honey and berries for dessert.
- Use it for baking a traditional German cheesecake.

– From www.quick-german-recipes.com

er all the ingredients for the crust.

Form the dough into a ball, and wrap it in plastic wrap. Place in the fridge to chill.

Heat an oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 10-inch springform pan.

Roll out the chilled dough on a lightly floured surface, then place it in the bottom and sides of the pan.

Prick the dough in several places with a fork.

Place all the filling ingredients in a blender or food processor fitted with a metal chopping blade, and pulse about 10 times. Scrape down the sides. Process for another 30 seconds until creamy.

Pour into the pastry shell, and smooth the top. Bake for about 70 minutes, or until a wooden toothpick inserted about 2 inches from the edge comes out clean.

To minimize the top of the cake from cracking, let the cake cool in the oven with the door slightly opened.

When cooled, remove the side of the springform pan. For the best flavor, place the cake in a fridge for several hours before serving.

Turkish Poached Eggs with Quark, Herb Salad and Chili Oil

Makes 1 serving.

- 1/2 cup quark
- 1/2 teaspoon chili oil

- 2 eggs
- 2 quarts water
- 1 tablespoon white wine vinegar
- 1 sprig fresh dill, finely chopped
- 1 sprig fresh mint, leaves roughly chopped
- 1 green onion, thinly sliced
- Cracked pepper and sea salt, to taste
- Bagel chips

Whisk the quark in a small bowl for about 1 minute so it is slightly whipped. Transfer to a shallow serving bowl. Drizzle chili oil over the quark in a swirl pattern.

Crack the eggs, putting each in a separate small ramekin. Bring the water to a boil in a large pot over high heat. Reduce the heat to maintain a gentle simmer, then add the vinegar.

Stir the water to create a vortex, then slip the eggs into the center. Poach for 3 1/2 minutes, then remove the eggs with a slotted spoon to a paper towel to drain for about 30 seconds. Nestle the eggs on the quark.

Top with chopped herbs and green onion, cracked pepper and sea salt to taste. Serve immediately with bagel chips.

Jane Ammeson can be contacted via email at janeammeson@gmail.com or by writing to Focus, The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085.

Spectrum Health Lakeland releases annual cancer care report

ST. JOSEPH — Spectrum Health Lakeland recently released its 2020 cancer care report, which included data that's used to improve cancer diagnoses, treatment, rehabilitation and support.

In 2019, 1,179 cancer cases were treated at Lakeland, according to a Lakeland news release.

The five most common cancer sites, in order of prevalence, were lung, breast, prostate, colorectal and melanoma.

By gender, 55.8 percent of patients were female and 44.19 percent were male. By age, 68.2 percent of patients were 60 and older, 29.35 percent were 30-59 years old, and 2.37 percent were

29 or younger.

The report from the Marie Yeager Cancer Center also highlighted the addition of a high-risk cancer program to care for those with increased risk of developing certain types of cancer.

Located within the Center for Outpatient Services in St. Joseph, the program works with patients to help them understand genetic risks and diagnose cancer at an earlier stage. Services support patients at high risk for breast cancer with a plan to expand to other types of cancer in the future.

As part of the program, Lakeland hired oncology genetic counselor Samantha Witt Crosby, who meets with



The Marie Yeager Cancer Center is shown.

those affected by cancer or who have a family history of cancer that may indicate higher risk of developing the disease. She discusses a patient's health, family health and any clues about an in-

herited risk for cancer.

Lakeland also implemented a biosimilar program to help ease the financial burden and lower out-of-pocket costs for patients undergoing infusion treatment, accord-

ing to the release.

A biosimilar is an infusion drug with similar molecular structure to the original "reference" drug. While there are no clinical differences, biosimilars are significantly

cheaper. Since the program began in the fall of 2019, it's estimated that biosimilars have resulted in \$800,000 in savings for patients.

"Spectrum Health Lakeland has always been committed to staying at the forefront of cancer care, and this year has been an exciting time for advancement," said Barbara Schmidtman, director of oncology services. "In the field of oncology, things are always changing, but we look forward to what that means for our patients as we work to improve care and save lives."

For more info, or to read the full report, visit www.spectrumhealthlakeland.org/cancer.